



1914-1918

NOT FORGOTTEN: Remembering the fallen of World War I

BRINGING THE PAST TO LIFE

HISTORY

REVEALED

GENGHIS KHAN

The nomad who tried to conquer the world – and nearly did

BEING MARILYN

The woman behind the mask



GLADIATOR!

The bloodsports of Ancient Rome

REVOLUTION IN AMERICA

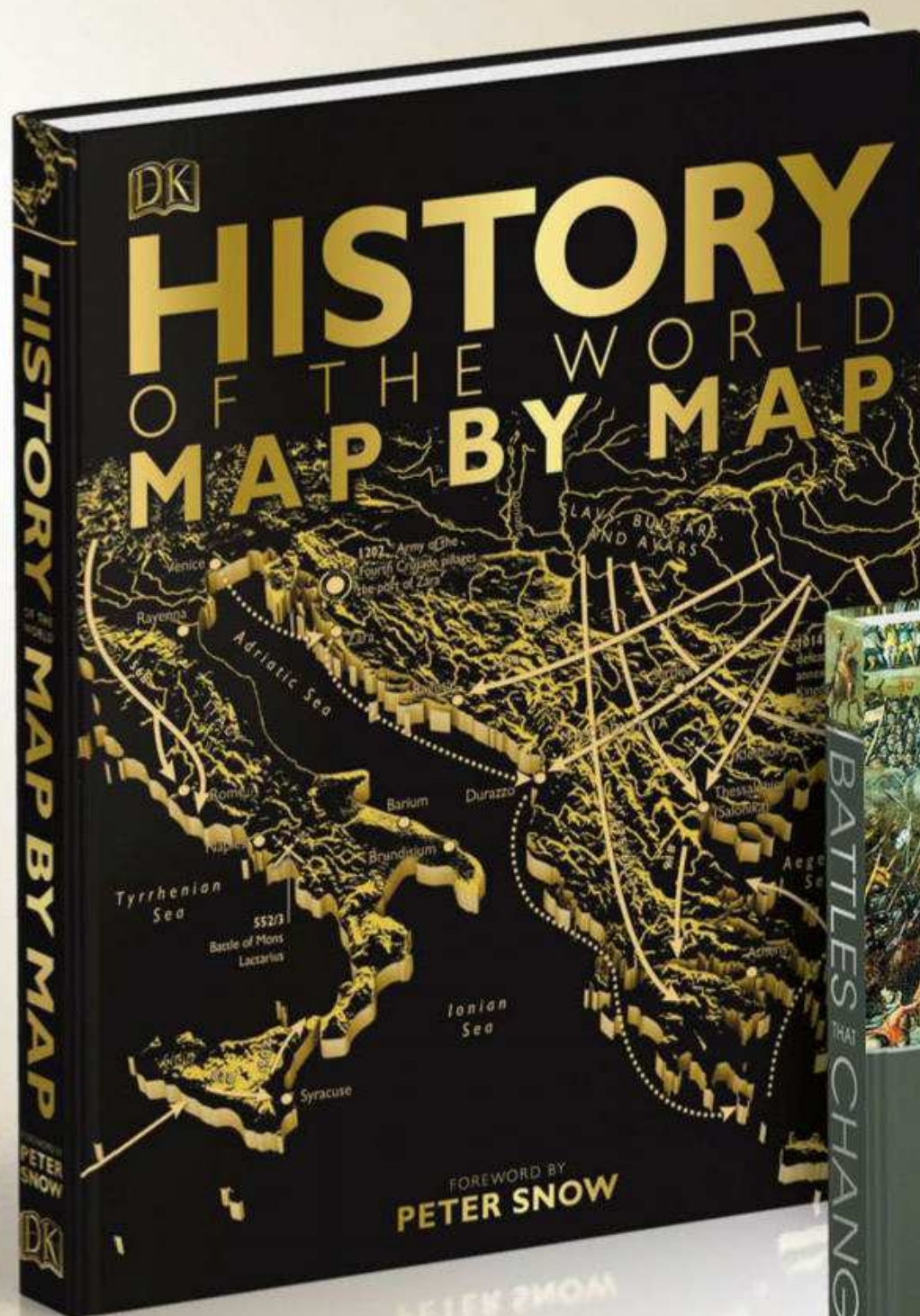
How Britain's colonies built the land of the free

MEDIEVAL MURDER MYSTERY

Did Henry II have Thomas Becket killed?

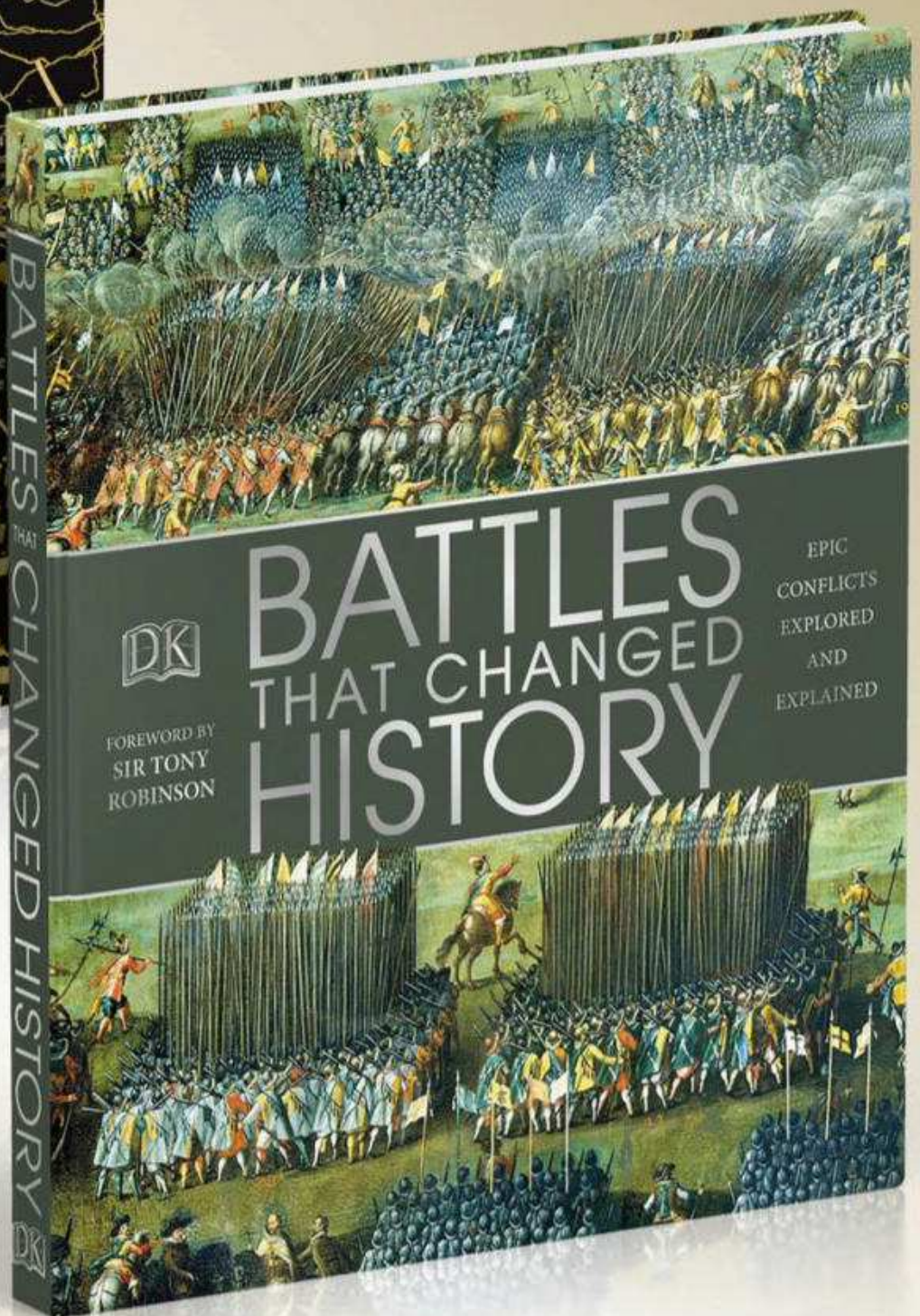


AMAZING TALES OF THE PAST



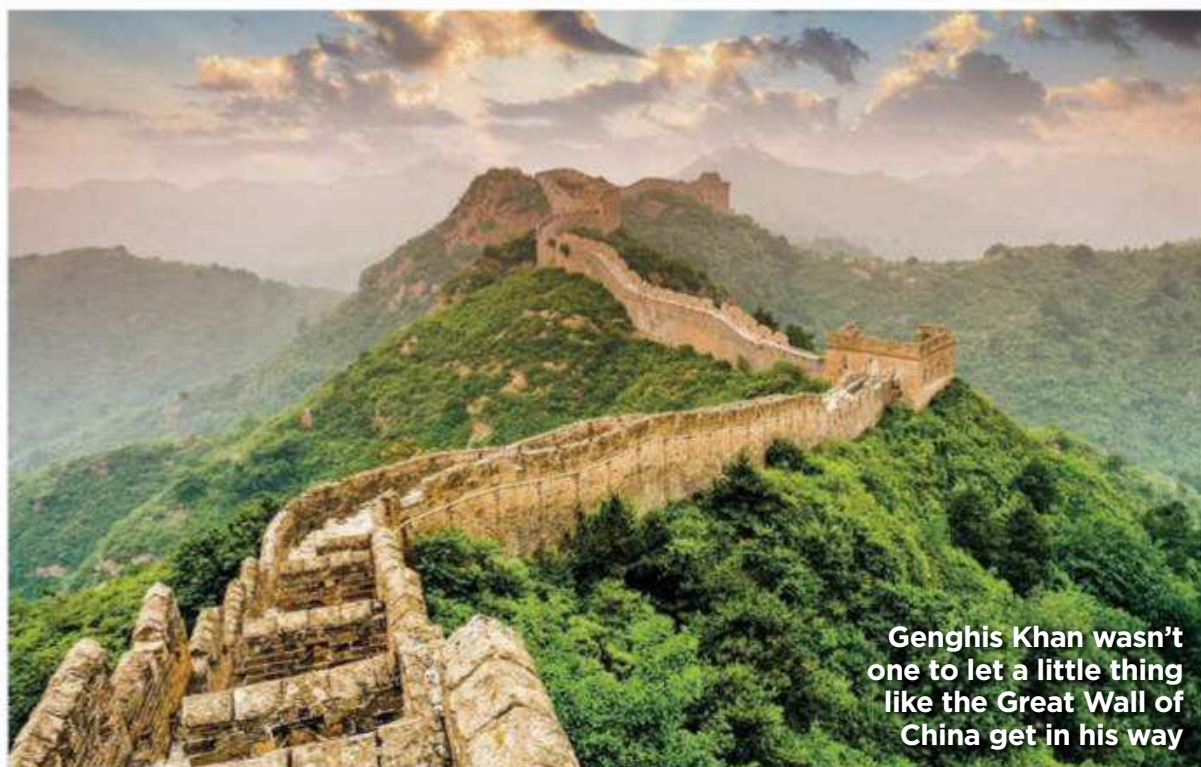
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Genghis Khan wasn't one to let a little thing like the Great Wall of China get in his way

The long way round



When faced with an obstacle as imposing as **the Great Wall of China**, most attackers would be forced to admit defeat. Not Genghis Khan. He simply went around it and **invaded China by the back door**. And it's his sheer insistence that he was going to succeed that drove him to create the **largest contiguous land empire** in the whole of human history. Not bad for a nomadic pauper.

We pick up his incredible story on page 28.

From a man whose name is known around the world to the story of one whose name has been **largely lost to history**. But for Fabian Ware, founder of what would become the Commonwealth War Graves Commission, the whole point was that his work would ensure that others would not be forgotten. His work to **commemorate the fallen of World War I** deserves to be remembered, and we tell his story on page 46.

Elsewhere, you'll find features on subjects as diverse as **Thomas Becket** (p39), **Marilyn Monroe** (p55) and the **American Revolutionary War** (p63) – and that's just for starters! Happy reading...

Paul

Paul McGuinness
Editor

Don't miss our November issue, on sale 1 November

CONTRIBUTORS



Emma Wells

Emma is an ecclesiastical historian who specialises in the cults of saints. She tackles one of the most famous of them all, Thomas Becket. See page 39



Gavin Mortimer

Gavin has written a book about war often, but this time he is looking at how the fallen are remembered in the aftermath. See page 46



Michael Scott

The professor of classics and ancient history is exploring the secrets of Cairo, Athens and Istanbul in BBC Two's *Ancient Invisible Cities*. See page 17

THIS MONTH WE'VE LEARNED...

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The number of months that cop killer Harry Roberts evaded police by camping out in the woods. The manhunt was one of the largest ever launched by Scotland Yard. See page 18.

42,773

The number of words in Dr Samuel Johnson's famous dictionary, published in 1755. Under the definition for 'dull', he wrote "to make dictionaries is dull work". See page 73.

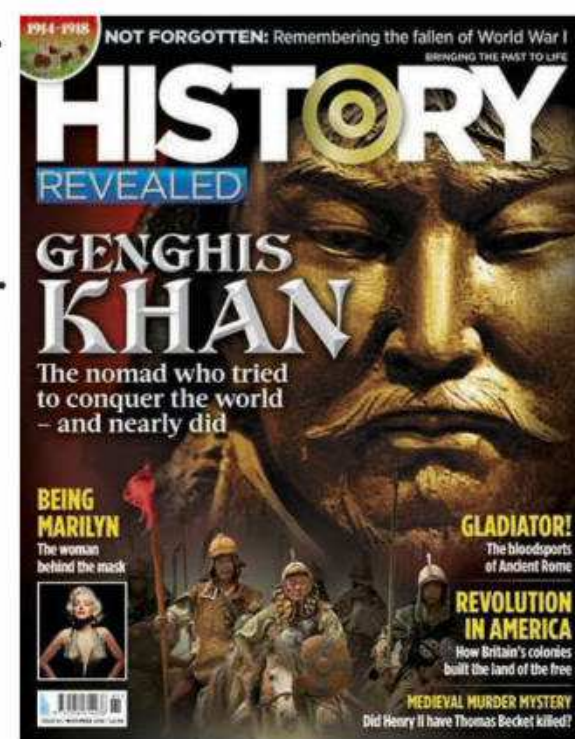
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Chests of tea dumped overboard during the Boston Tea Party of December 1773. It spurred the Britain to pass harsh laws that fermented rebellion. See page 63.

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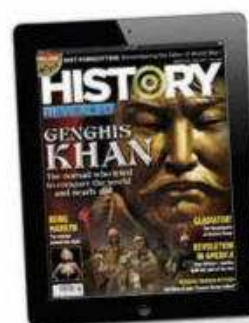
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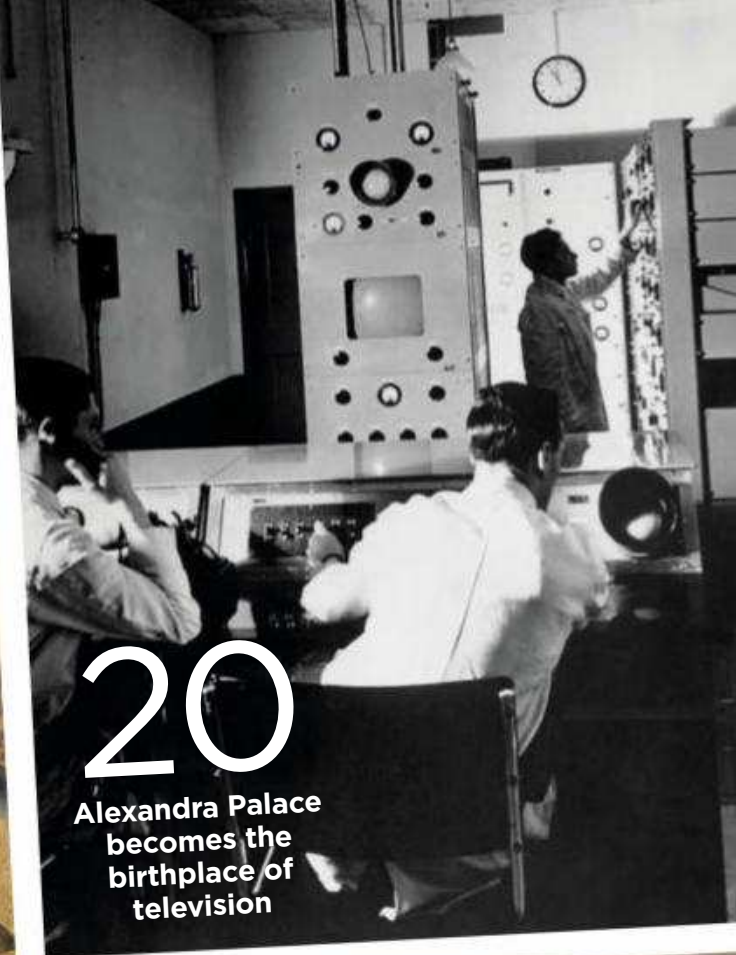


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13 colonies went to war; a new nation returned



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Archbishop Thomas Becket defied his king - and paid the price

NOVEMBER 2018

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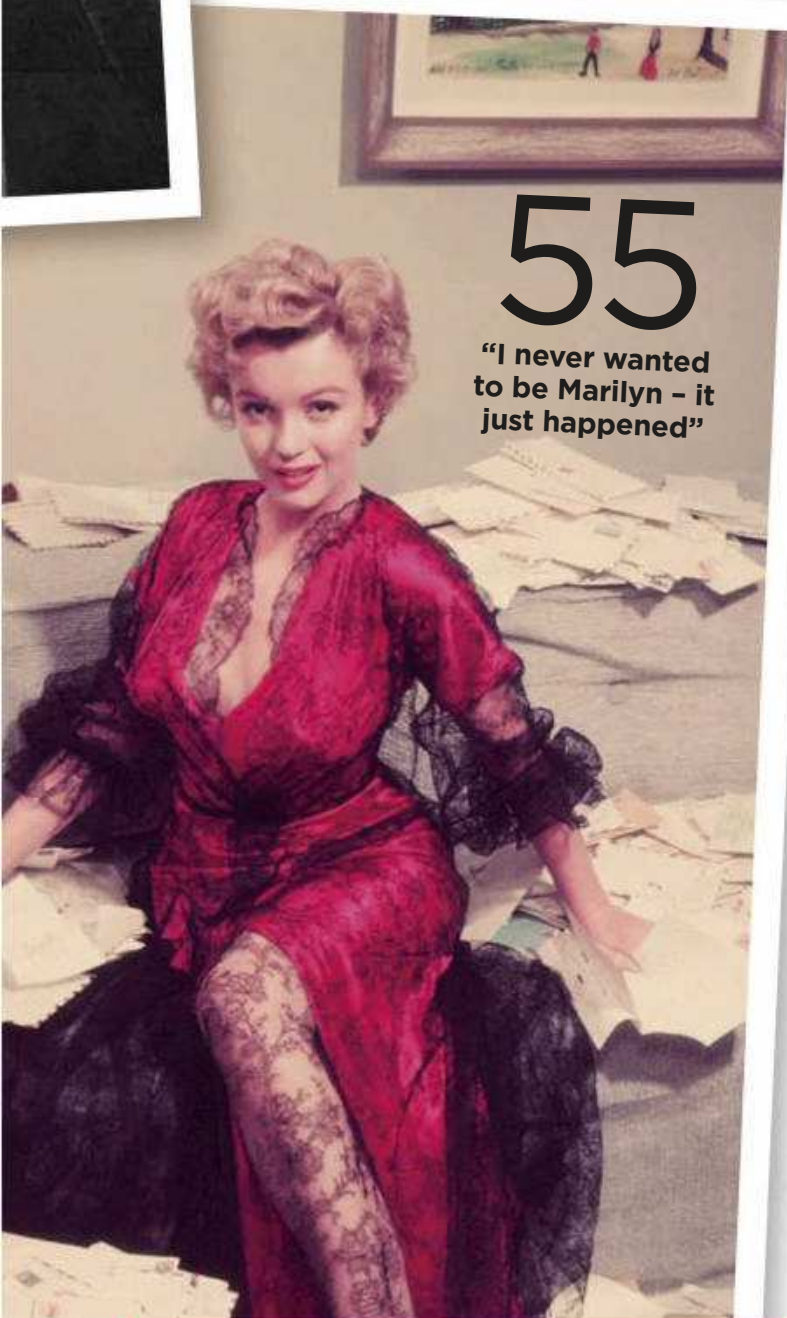
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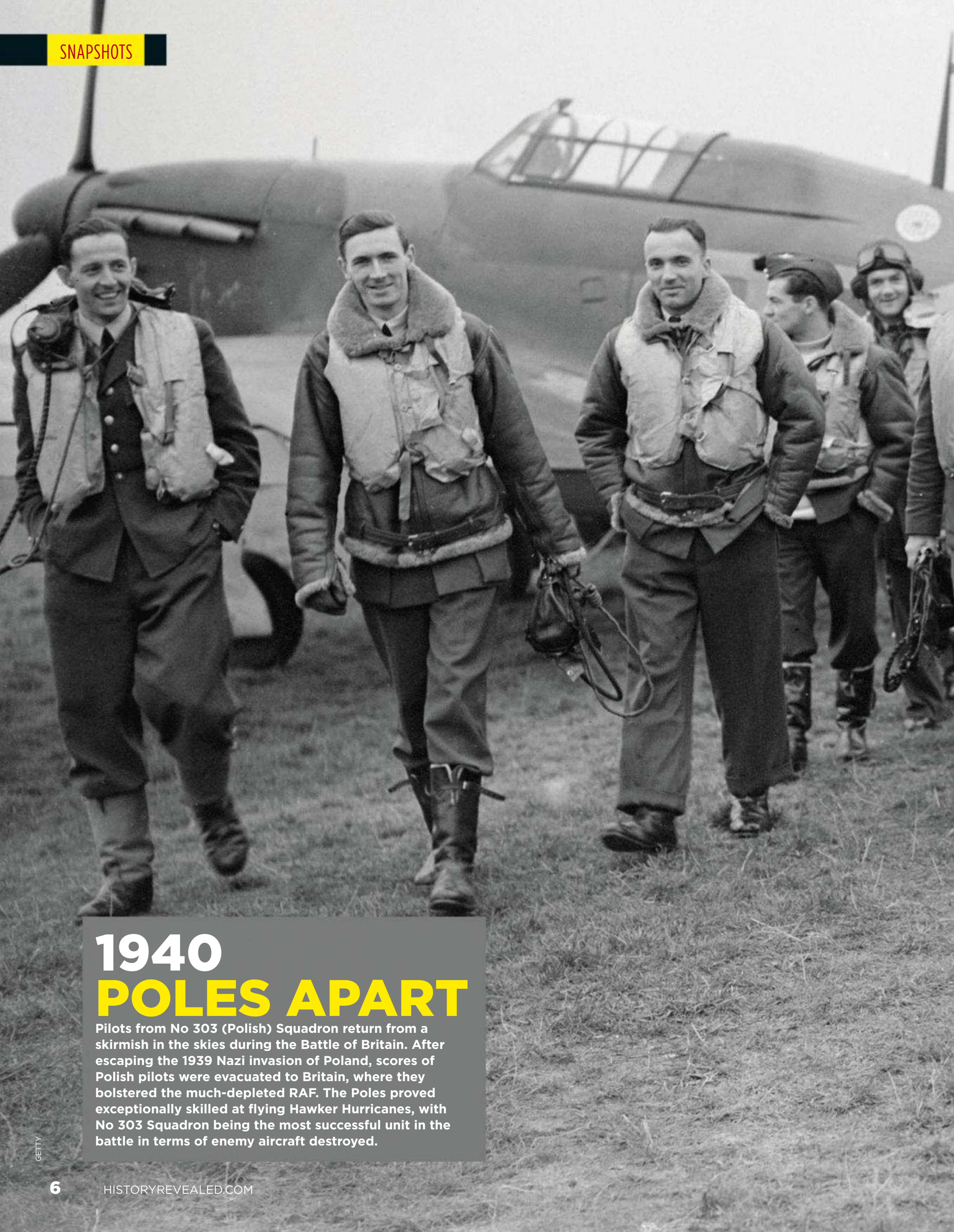
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LIKE IT? SUBSCRIBE!

More details on our special offer on **p26**





1940 POLES APART

Pilots from No 303 (Polish) Squadron return from a skirmish in the skies during the Battle of Britain. After escaping the 1939 Nazi invasion of Poland, scores of Polish pilots were evacuated to Britain, where they bolstered the much-depleted RAF. The Poles proved exceptionally skilled at flying Hawker Hurricanes, with No 303 Squadron being the most successful unit in the battle in terms of enemy aircraft destroyed.



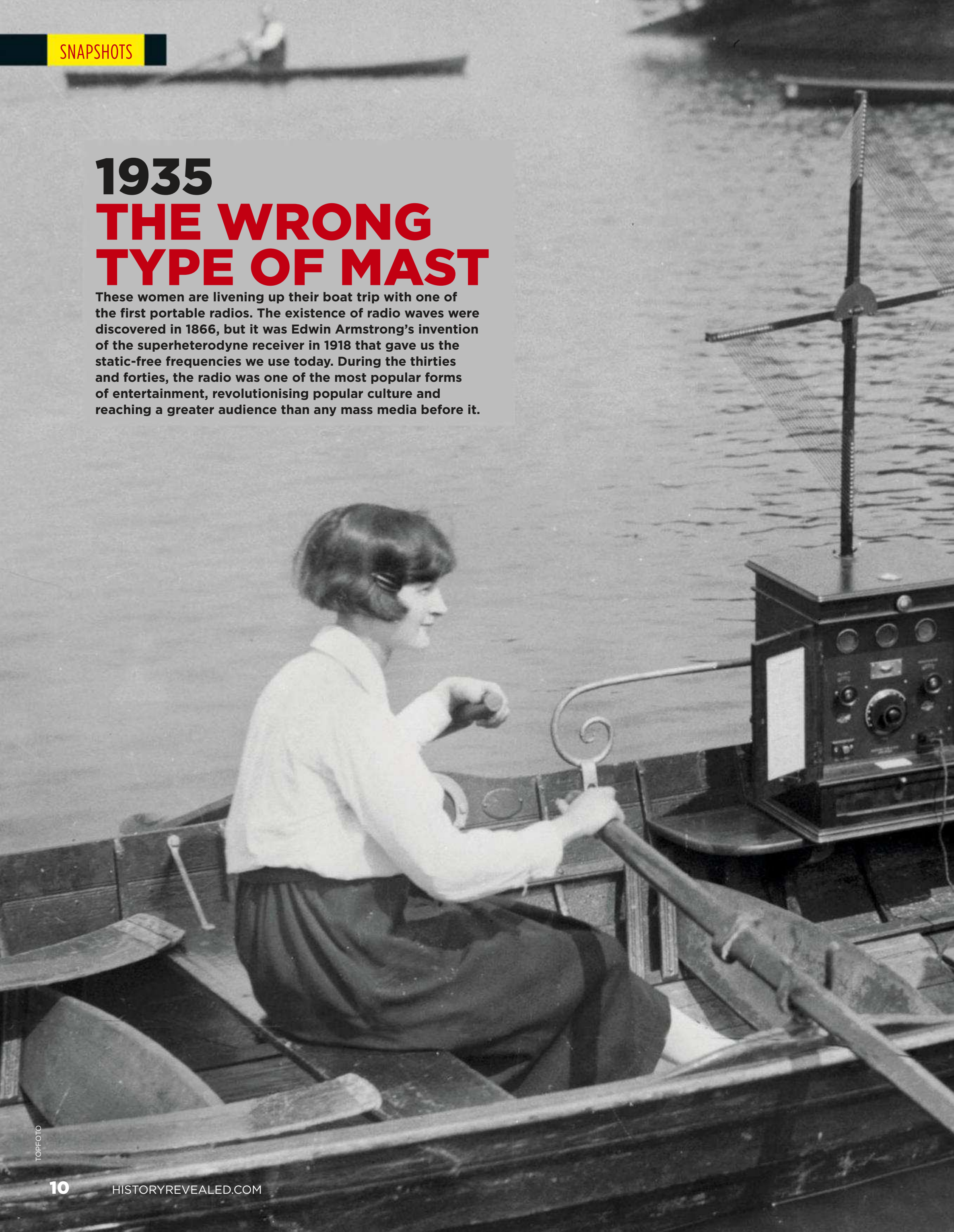
1958 ALL EYES UNTO GOD

Audiences at a Utah drive-in cinema watch 1956 biblical epic *The Ten Commandments*. Drive-ins were beloved in fifties and sixties America, giving people the chance to catch a film on a big screen from the comfort of their cars. They gained an immoral reputation, as teenage couples found drive-ins to be ideal places to spend some time alone, but the rise of the VCR and the surging cost of fuel saw their popularity decline in the seventies.



1935 THE WRONG TYPE OF MAST

These women are livening up their boat trip with one of the first portable radios. The existence of radio waves were discovered in 1866, but it was Edwin Armstrong's invention of the superheterodyne receiver in 1918 that gave us the static-free frequencies we use today. During the thirties and forties, the radio was one of the most popular forms of entertainment, revolutionising popular culture and reaching a greater audience than any mass media before it.





HOW EDWARD LOVED AMERICA AND AMERICA ADORED THE KING

KING EDWARD VIII AN AMERICAN LIFE

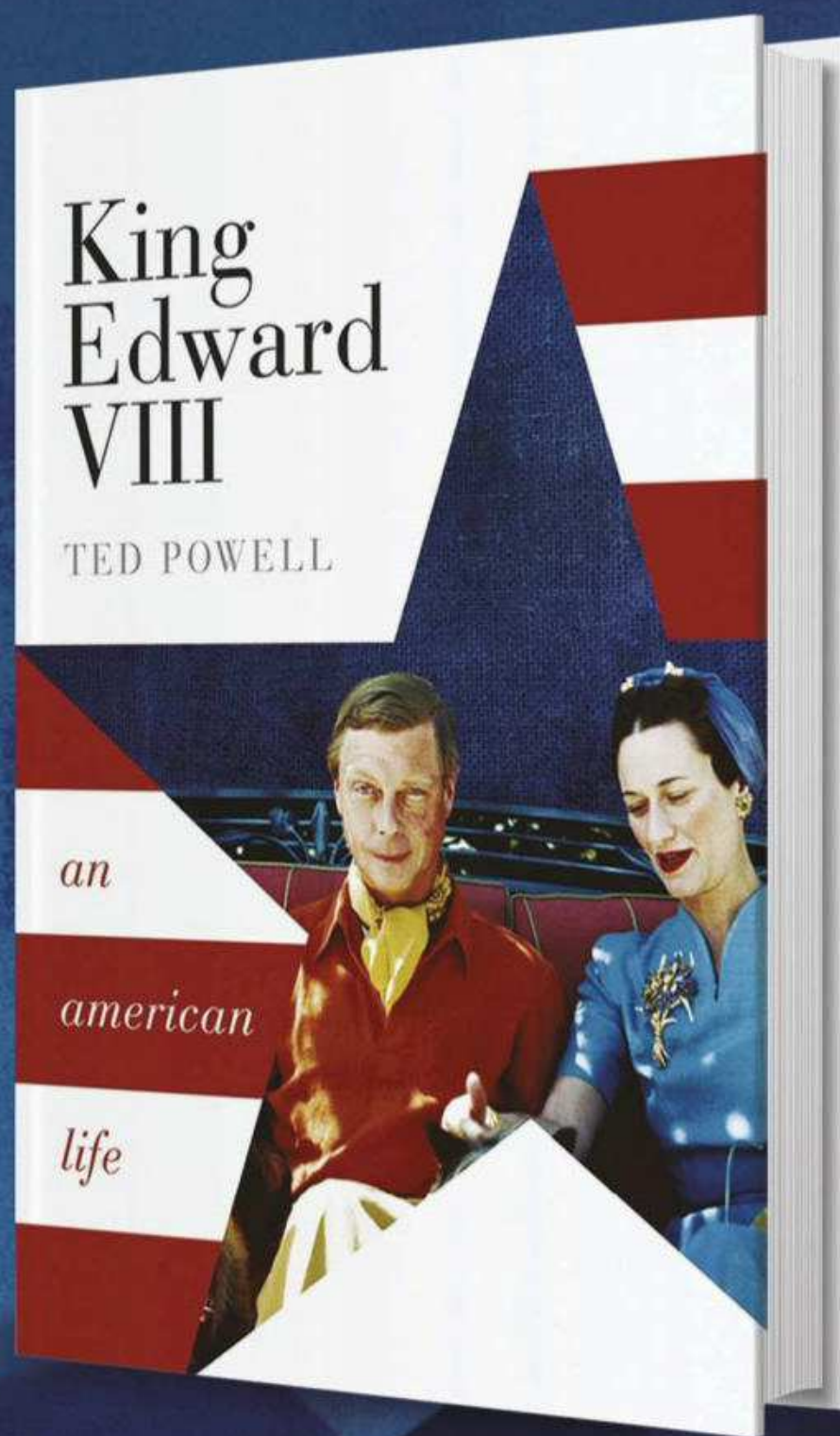
Ted Powell

At the end of the First World War, the young Prince of Wales was captivated by America's energy, confidence, and raw power and subsequently paid a number of visits; surfing in Hawaii and partying on Long Island among other pursuits.

Eventually, of course, he fell in love with Wallis – forceful, irreverent, and sassy, she embodied everything that Edward admired about modern America.

Similarly, America was fascinated by the Prince, especially his love life, and he became a celebrity through newsreels, radio, and the press.

September 2018 | Hardback | £25.00

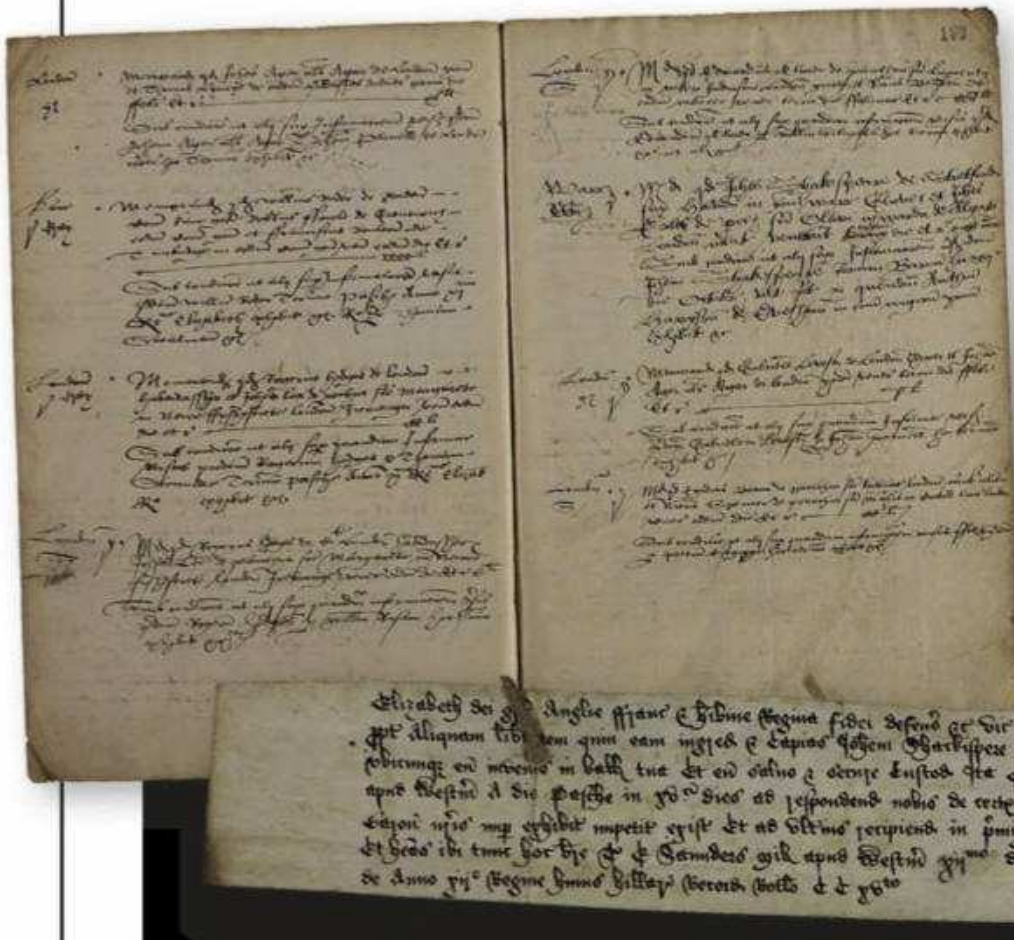


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HISTORY IN THE NEWS



The allegations caused trouble for Shakespeare's father until 1583, when the Bard would have been at least 19



LEGAL TROUBLES SHAPED SHAKESPEARE'S EARLY YEARS

The Bard's political beliefs and writings may have been influenced by criminal accusations against his father

Events that may have inspired a young William Shakespeare have been uncovered in documents relating to the playwright's father. Hidden in the National Archives for years, the 21 records – discovered by Prof Glyn Parry from the University of Roehampton – highlight the legal and financial trouble suffered by the Bard's father, John Shakespeare. John, a glover and wool dealer, was a prominent member of society in 16th-century Stratford-upon-Avon who held several

municipal roles, including that of mayor. We know he was accused of illegal wool dealing and moneylending, but it was assumed that these allegations were settled out of court while his famous son was still young. That appears not to be the case. The records show that John's troubles lasted until William was at least 19 – much later than previously thought – and were brought about by informers, who were widely considered to be corrupt and only interested in filling the Queen's coffers. One of his debts to the Crown is

recorded at £132, or £20,000 in today's money, and his property was placed at risk of seizure. William's writing often betrays a need for justice, as well as a critical view of those in power. Could his father's experiences have something to do with it? Prof Parry thinks so: "Very little is known of William Shakespeare's early life and the influences on his writing. These documents now confirm that legal action taken against his father by the Crown influenced his attitude to power politics."

SIX OF THE BEST...

Treasures that have been lost to time...p14



YOUR HISTORY

Presenter and historian Michael Scott...p17



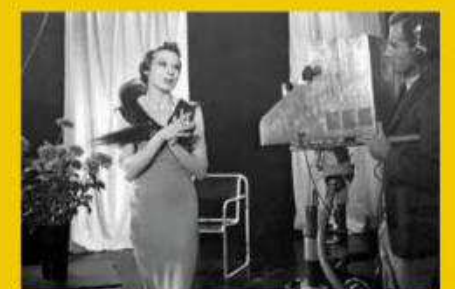
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TIME CAPSULE: 1788

French royal authority takes a battering...p22



BRAZIL MUSEUM FIRE CAUSES IMMEASURABLE DEVASTATION

The largest natural history collection in South America has been all but destroyed

The National Museum of Brazil has been gutted by a fire, resulting in the loss of millions of historical artefacts – among them some of the most valuable in Latin America.

The blaze is believed to have started on Sunday 2 September, when the building was closed to the public, and carried on burning into the night. No casualties have been reported, but with up to 90 per cent of the museum's treasures destroyed, the historical losses have been described as incalculable.

The museum, in Rio de Janeiro, contained the largest natural-history collection in the Americas, comprised of more than 20 million items. Amongst the treasures believed to have been destroyed is the 11,500-year-old skeleton of a woman, given the name 'Luzia'. Discovered in 1975, hers were the oldest remains ever

found in Latin America and the museum's jewel in the crown. Other important items at the museum include fossils of the extinct sabre-toothed cat and of dinosaurs.

An engineers' report has suggested that a fire was inevitable due to exposed wiring and neglect. Poor government funding has also been blamed, the suggestion being that the museum was allowed to fall into disrepair, and firefighters battling the blaze reportedly did not have access to enough water.

The fire has led to the country reflecting on its attitude towards their past: "It is part of a process of institutional neglect in a country that does not take care of its history," Djamil

Ribeiro, a leading academic and commentator, told *The Guardian*.

The museum's linguistic department is also believed to have been destroyed by the fire. It contained records of extinct languages spoken by indigenous South American tribes.

Museum studies students have since begun a search for photos taken by tourists to try and piece together images of the lost artefacts.

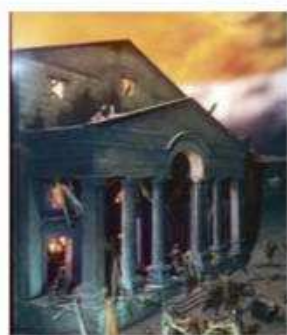


The museum, once home to Latin America's oldest skeleton (*below*), is now a charred ruin



SIX OF THE BEST... LOST TREASURES

These monuments and artefacts have either been destroyed or stolen



1 LIBRARY OF ALEXANDRIA, EGYPT

Once the greatest library of the ancient world, it suffered many fires and acts of destruction, including an invasion by Aurelian during Rome's war with Zenobia of Palmyra.



2 GLASGOW SCHOOL OF ART, SCOTLAND

Founded in 1845 as one of the UK's most prominent art institutions, fires in 2014 and 2018 caused considerable damage, including the destruction of its renowned library.



3 AMBER ROOM, RUSSIA

Decorated golden panels from this room in the Catherine Palace were looted by the Nazis. As with so many artefacts stolen during World War II, their whereabouts remain unknown.



4 OLD SUMMER PALACE, CHINA

This 18th-century imperial complex of palaces and gardens in Beijing was destroyed during the Second Opium War. It was so large it allegedly took three days to burn down.



5 BUDDHAS OF BAMIAN, AFGHANISTAN

Built in the fifth century, these sandstone cliff figures were once the tallest standing Buddha statues in the world. They were destroyed by the Taliban in 2001.



6 MONBIJOU PALACE, GERMANY

This late-Baroque palace in the heart of Berlin was bombed heavily during World War II before being finally razed to the ground by the authorities of East Berlin in 1959.

TIME PIECE

A look at everyday objects from the past

SMOOTH OPERATOR

Every man needed to look his best before going on a raid

Ironing is one of those household chores many loathe having to do. However, removing the creases from your linen is not a modern task: the Vikings did it too. This whalebone plaque, found in a burial barrow in Norway, dates to the ninth-century. Multiple uses have been suggested for the plaque, decorated with horse's heads, including a smoothing board – a precursor to the ironing board – or a chopping board. Similar plaques have been found in the graves of rich Viking women in Ireland and Scotland.



The village is in Tell al-Samara, around 90 miles north of Cairo

IN THE NEWS

ANCIENT EGYPTIAN SETTLEMENT IS OLDER THAN THE PYRAMIDS

The Nile Delta region shows evidence of Neolithic communities

A Neolithic settlement has been unearthed in Egypt that pre-dates the country's oldest pyramids by thousands of years. The project, led by Egyptian and French archaeologists, discovered storage silos in the Nile Delta region that held animal and plant remains as well as pottery and tools.

The evidence suggests that humans inhabited Tell al-Samara from the fifth millennium BC. The oldest pyramid, the Pyramid of Djoser at Saqqara, was built c2630 BC during the period of the Old Kingdom. Frederic Geyau, excavation leader, says: "Discoveries from the Neolithic period are substantially anonymous in this area, so this discovery is of great importance."

Archaeologists hope that these and future discoveries will shed light on the prehistoric communities that lived in Lower Egypt before the First Dynasty. They are also interested in the cultivating practices of those who lived in the Nile's wetland region.

HISTORY IN COLOUR

Colourised photographs that bring the past to life



PANCHO VILLA, 1914

The Mexican revolutionary Pancho Villa rides with his troops after his victory at Ojinaga. This photo was taken as part of a film contract to generate funds for his campaigns against federal forces. Assassinated in 1923, after the Mexican Revolution had been won, he remains a controversial figure in the US due to his raid on the New Mexico town of Columbus.

See more colourised pictures by
Marina Amaral [@marinamaral2](https://twitter.com/marinamaral2)

YOUR HISTORY

Michael Scott

The presenter and author explains why the Trojan Horse may have been good for the Romans, and his choice for (not exactly) unsung hero



Michael Scott's three-part series *Ancient Invisible Cities* uncovers the forgotten histories of Cairo, Athens and Istanbul. It's available to view on BBC iPlayer.

Michael Scott's pick, the ruins of Palmyra, were desecrated by Islamic State



Q If you could turn back the clock, which single event in history would you want to change?

How about a classic moment like the Trojans welcoming the wooden horse into Troy, a gift left by the Greeks? It was, of course, a trap. The horse contained a group of warriors who opened up the city gates to the main Greek force, which led to the fall of Troy. But what would have happened if the Trojans refused it? According to the great ancient epics, one of the survivors of Troy, Aeneas, went on to found Rome. If Troy had never fallen, would the Roman Empire have existed?

Q If you could meet any figure from history, who would it be?

Megasthenes, a fourth-century BC diplomat sent by the Seleucid Empire to be ambassador at the court of King Chandragupta Maurya in India. He wrote about what he learned in India – from human-sized ants, men with their feet on backwards, how the king was massaged with rolling pins as he heard legal cases, and comparisons of Greek to Indian attitudes to punishment and slavery. We only have fragments of the text surviving, so I would love to hear more about his extraordinary experiences at the confluence of ancient worlds.

“He wrote about human-sized ants and men with their feet on backwards”

Q If you could visit any historical landmark in the world tomorrow, where would you go?

I want to go to Palmyra in Syria. This was a trading community on the boundary between the Roman and Parthian Empires, with its heyday between the first and third centuries. It was a city that grew rich on its ability to move goods across inhospitable terrain and difficult political borders. Its fame came to an end when the people of Palmyra – led by Queen Zenobia – challenged the Roman Empire on the battlefield. And lost. The Romans laid waste to the city.

Q Who is your unsung history hero?

He's not exactly unsung, but I don't think he gets the praise he deserves! Archimedes – scientist, philosopher and all-round genius from the end of the third century BC. He's famous for shouting “Eureka”, after discovering how to test the volume and density of metal objects. He was also a prolific inventor, and when his home of Syracuse was attacked, he developed machines to defend the city, including one that could reach over the city walls to pick up a ship and capsize it. When the Romans eventually conquered Syracuse, a soldier killed Archimedes despite orders to spare him.

Archimedes' tomb has since been lost and there is only one (pretty horrific) monument to him.

**Daily
Mirror**

4d. Thursday, August 18, 1966

No. 19,487

Midnight—Yard issue picture

THIS IS HARRY ROBERTS

**IF YOU
SEE HIM
TELL THE
POLICE**

By EDWARD VALE and HAROLD WHITTALL
THIS is the man every policeman
in Britain is looking for.
His name: Harry Maurice Roberts—
alias Ronald Hall, alias John O'Brien.
He is the man wanted by police investigating
the shooting of three London policemen.

Warning

Scotland Yard issued this picture of Roberts at
midnight. And they repeated this warning to the
public:

"If you see a man answering Roberts's des-
cription, ring the nearest police station—but don't
go near him."

Roberts is armed and he is dangerous.

Roberts is thirty years old, five feet ten inches
tall, with a fresh com-
plexion, brown hair and
blue eyes.

He has a half-inch
scar below the left eye,
a small scar on the left
eyelid, and another on
the base of his left
thumb.

Police believe that
Roberts has bought a
change of clothing and is
now wearing a check shirt
and a dark-green Army
combat jacket.

Earlier, a massive police
Continued on Back Page

HE IS

ARMED

HE IS

DANGEROUS

YESTERDAY'S PAPERS

Another timeless front page from the archives

THE SHEPHERD'S BUSH MURDERS ROCK BRITAIN

Scotland Yard launches a furious search for career criminal Harry Roberts after three police officers are gunned down in London

Barely two weeks after England won the greatest prize in football – the FIFA World Cup – the triumphant mood was broken by a triple murder in West London. The killing of three policemen, in broad daylight, prompted unfeigned outrage. Two of the perpetrators were quickly apprehended, but the third seemed to vanish, sparking the largest manhunt Britain had seen for many years.

Harry Roberts, a convicted armed robber and ex-soldier, was sitting in a car with two accomplices, John Witney and John Duddy, near Wormwood Scrubs prison in Shepherd's Bush, when three plain-clothed police officers arrived. The crooks' car had no tax disc – a legal requirement – and its proximity to the prison had aroused the coppers' suspicions.

As temporary Detective Constable David Wombwell questioned Witney on the missing tax disc, Roberts shot the policeman in the head. He proceeded to chase a second officer, Detective Sergeant Christopher Head, to his car before shooting him. Duddy then got out of the van, shooting the third policeman, Constable Geoffrey Fox, as he tried to escape.

The three criminals fled the scene in their car, but a passerby noticed their erratic driving and noted their vehicle's registration number. Police

arrested Witney, who owned the vehicle, two days later, and he admitted his role in the shootings and named his accomplices. Duddy was arrested in Glasgow two days after that, but Roberts vanished.

The search for Roberts was one of the largest Scotland Yard had ever undertaken – posters were distributed across the country and a £1,000 reward for information was offered. At the time, the murders were called the “most heinous crime in a generation”, and it marked the first time that three police officers had been killed in one incident since 1910.

Roberts was apprehended three months later – he had been found camping out in some woods in Hertfordshire. There were calls for the death penalty, suspended since 1965, to be reintroduced in this case; instead he was given a life sentence with a recommended minimum of 30 years. He was released in 2014, after 48 years behind bars, making him one of the UK's longest-serving prisoners. 📍

The three victims were all police officers: (l-r), Geoffrey Fox, David Wombwell and Christopher Head

As well as posters, Roberts' mother appealed for her son to hand himself in



Police found Roberts' heavily camouflaged tent in woods near Bishop's Stortford



THIS MONTH IN... 1936

Anniversaries that have made history

Adele Dixon sings a special song, titled *Television*, while backed by the BBC Television Orchestra

THE BBC LAUNCHES THE FIRST REGULAR TELEVISION SERVICE

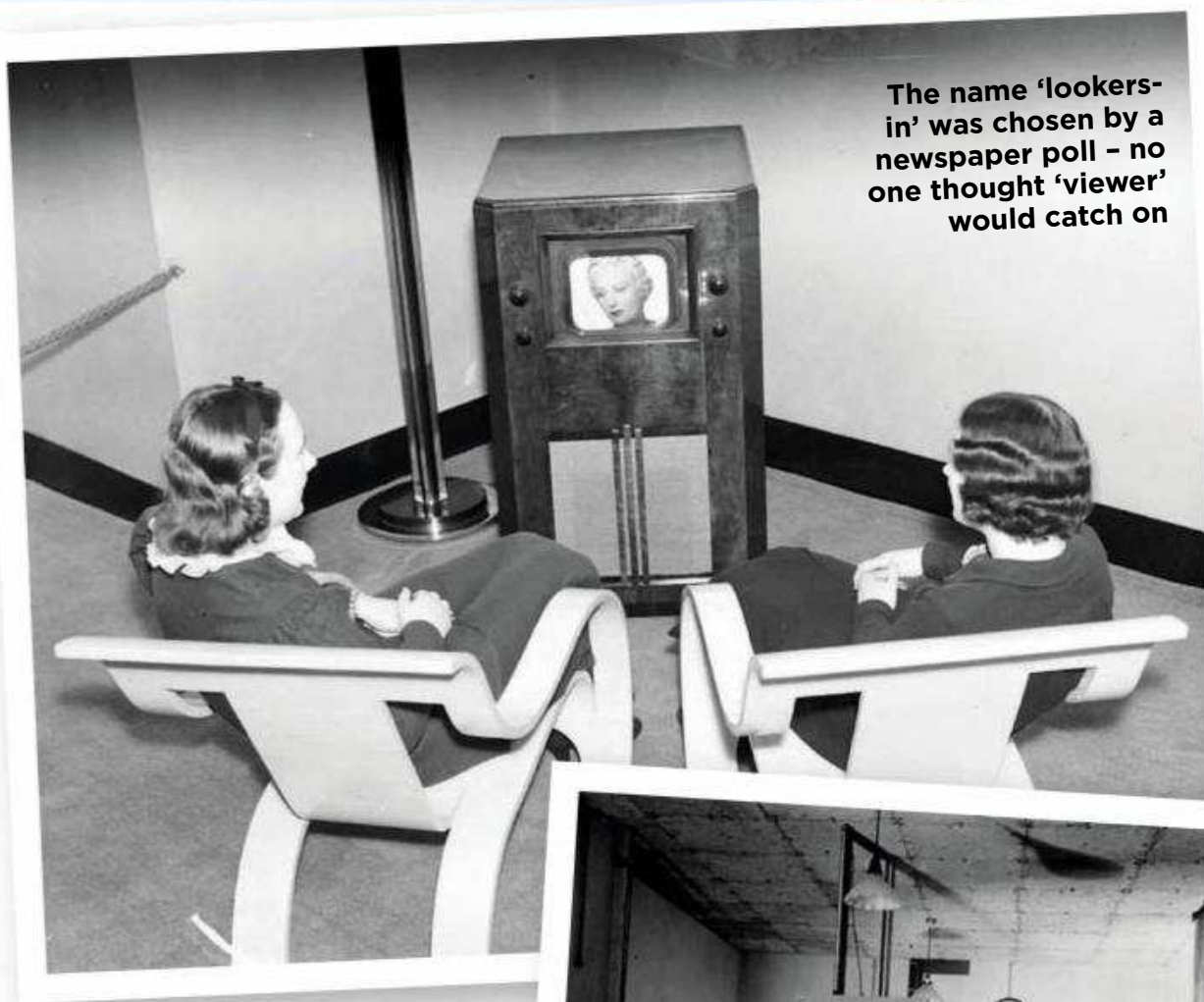
It was not actually the first transmission, but the hour-long broadcast enshrined Alexandra Palace as the birthplace of television

Most of us today would struggle to imagine a world where the television wasn't an ubiquitous, constant presence, but an exciting innovation that brought a new dimension to entertainment.

Inventors had been developing the components needed for television since the mid-19th century, but the breakthrough came in 1926 thanks to Scottish engineer John Logie Baird, creator of the mechanical television.


Soon, the British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) – until then a radio broadcaster – got in on the act. Daily transmissions began, watched by a few thousand early adopters on Baird Televisors, and preparations were made for regular programming. The BBC leased a wing of Alexandra Palace in London and converted banqueting and tea rooms into studios. Test transmissions took place in August 1936, but the launch of the “first regular high-definition” service would not come until 2 November.

The inaugural broadcast, creatively named The Opening of the BBC Television Service, began at 3pm and lasted an hour. The transmission alternated between Baird's equipment – chosen to be used first by a coin toss – and the rival Marconi-EMI system, which the BBC later chose to use exclusively. Following speeches and a news bulletin, the comedy musical star Adele Dixon opened a variety show, with a song all about television, featuring jugglers, comedians and dancers. It was watched by some 400 people, referred to as ‘lookers-in’. That the show only lasted an



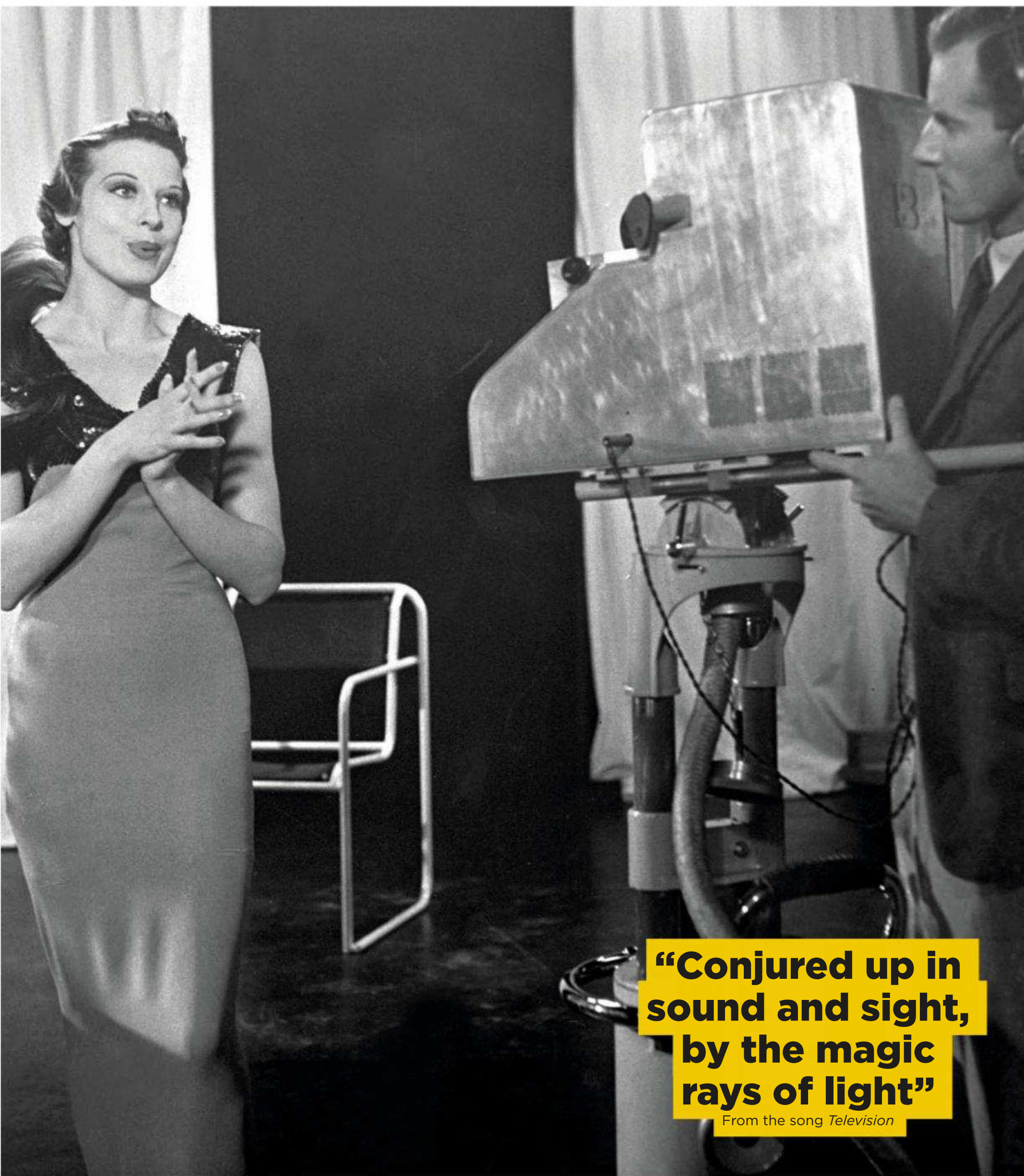
The name ‘lookers-in’ was chosen by a newspaper poll – no one thought ‘viewer’ would catch on

hour was in part due to a lack of material, as well as concerns over eye strain and disruption to family life.

By 1939, with war looming, the decision was made to close down the service, but it resumed in 1946. Regional transmitters began to be created so that by 1955, it was possible to watch BBC television across 95 per cent of the UK. 



Technicians test Baird's systems at Alexandra Palace ahead of the launch



**“Conjured up in
sound and sight,
by the magic
rays of light”**

*From the song *Television**

TIME CAPSULE 1788

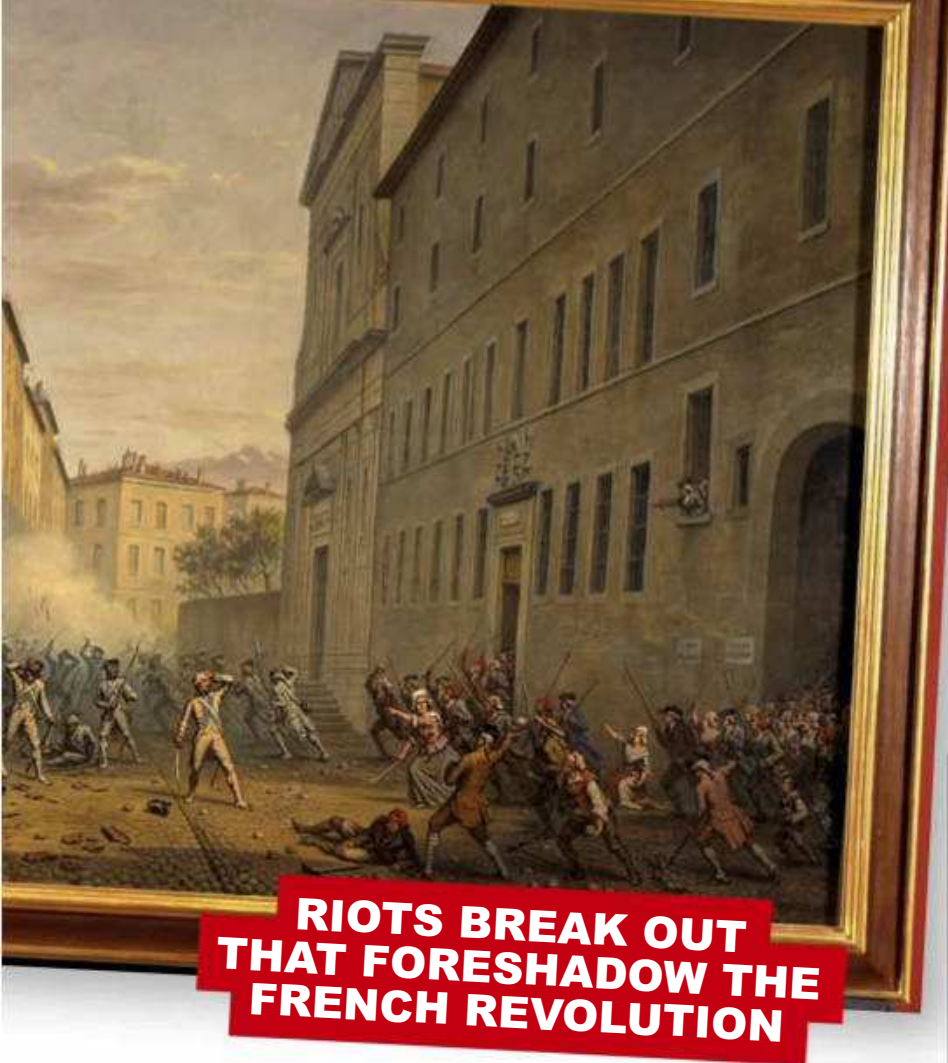
Snapshots of the world from one year in the past

THE INCAPACITY OF GEORGE III CREATES A STORM

The reign of George III was punctuated by bouts of illness, causing chaos for Parliament. By November 1788, it seemed a regency was inevitable – and the Prince of Wales was the obvious choice. Tory Prime Minister William Pitt the Younger was aware that the Prince was likely to dismiss him in favour of his Whig rival, Charles James Fox. Arguments went back and forth between the two parties over how much power should be granted to the Prince, but before a bill could be passed, the King rallied. Crisis averted, for now.



George III continued to suffer ill health and, in 1811, a regency was finally imposed. The Prince of Wales ruled in his name until George died in 1820

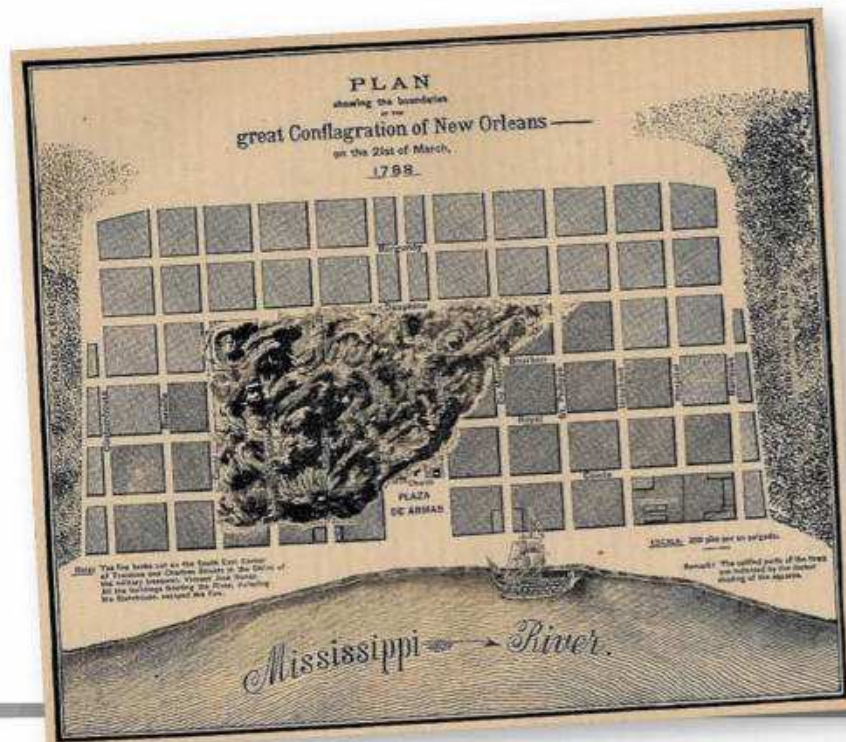


RIOTS BREAK OUT THAT FORESHADOW THE FRENCH REVOLUTION

Though the storming of the Bastille in 1789 is often seen as the starting point of the French Revolution, discontent had been brewing in France for years. By 1788, the country was in crippling debt, yet the ruling classes still lived in luxury. The government tried to raise taxes, but this was blocked by the Parlements, the provincial courts of appeal. On 7 June, the army was sent to Grenoble to banish the local magistrates, but the people came out in force to stop them. Tiles were thrown at the soldiers – giving the riot the name *Day of the Tiles*. It was the first major breakdown of royal authority.

A GREAT FIRE RIPS THROUGH NEW ORLEANS

More than 800 buildings in New Orleans, including many from the French colonial period, were destroyed in a fire. On 21 March 1788 – Good Friday – a candle fell from the altar of military treasurer Vicente Jose Nuñez's chapel, setting it alight. It consumed much of the city, helped by the fact that, as it was a holy day, bells weren't allowed to be rung to raise the alarm. Spanish style overtook the city's architecture, but another fire would sweep through in 1794.



THE FIRST US SETTLEMENT IS FOUNDED IN THE NORTHWEST TERRITORY

The 1783 Treaty of Paris, the agreement that ended the American Revolutionary War, granted the US most of Britain's colonial possessions to the northwest of the Ohio River, a huge swathe of land that is now split between the states of Ohio, Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Wisconsin and Minnesota. On 7 April 1788, the first settlement outside of the original 13 colonies was founded there. It was named Marietta, after Queen Marie Antoinette, in appreciation of France's help during the war.



ALSO IN 1788...

26 JANUARY

The First Fleet lands at Sydney Cove, which would later be established as the first British penal colony in New South Wales, Australia.

10 JULY

The Slave Trade Act reduces the number of slaves carried on ships. This was the first slavery shipping legislation passed in Britain – support for abolition grew rapidly in the years that followed.

13 JULY

Crops around Paris are decimated by a violent hailstorm. The hailstones were so large they smashed branches off trees and killed birds.

1 OCTOBER

The respectable William Brodie is hanged for his crimes. He shocked Edinburgh with his double life as a trade guildsman and cabinet-maker by day and burglar by night.

DECEMBER

Scottish poet Robert Burns collects fragments from old Scots poems, adding in his own lines to give us the version of *Auld Lang Syne* we still sing to ring in the new year today.

DIED: 29 MARCH CHARLES WESLEY

Along with his brother John, clergyman Charles Wesley began the Methodist movement to reform the Church of England. It eventually became an autonomous church and is now the fourth largest UK Christian denomination. He wrote many popular hymns, including *Hark! The Herald Angels Sing*.



BORN: 22 JANUARY GEORGE GORDON BYRON

Lord Byron's scandalous life was as notorious as his Romantic poetry. Author of *Don Juan* and *She Walks In Beauty*, he was rumoured to have engaged in many affairs including with his own half-sister. Described as "mad, bad and dangerous to know", his legacy lives on in the flawed yet enticing Byronic hero.



GRAPHIC HISTORY

GLADIATORS

Ancient Rome's sporting heroes fought for glory, freedom and the roar of the mob

10-15 minutes

The average length of a fight between two gladiators.

Gladiatorial games were the great sporting spectacles of Ancient Rome. Known as the *ludi*, they were lavish affairs which, at the height of their popularity during the first and second centuries BC, could last for more than a hundred days and involve thousands of gladiators.

Enemy soldiers were typically forced to become gladiators after being

taken prisoner. Others were criminals, usually condemned either to gladiator schools for training or to the arena without it – in which case, they weren't expected to live for long.

Some were volunteers, hoping for eternal glory. But for most, for the ones who had no choice, the ultimate prize was the *rudis*, the wooden sword that conferred a gladiator's freedom.

At many games there were beast hunts prior to the gladiatorial contests, in which *bestiarii* armed with spears slaughtered wild animals.

264 BC

Year of the first Roman gladiatorial games, according to the historian Livy. It involved three pairs of gladiators fighting to the death in a cattle market.

Some bouts had a referee, typically a former gladiator. He enforced the rules of combat and could even pause fights.

Gladiators were not all the same. There were several distinct classes, the most popular being the heavily armoured *Murillo*, the short-sword bearing *Thracian* and the almost unarmoured *Retarius*, who fought with a trident and net.





A SEA CHANGE

Cassius Dio, Suetonius and Martial all wrote of *naumachiae* – reenactments of naval battles – involving gladiators. Whether they were held in the same arenas used for other gladiatorial contests is unclear.

Born of death

The games trace their roots to a funeral rite known as a *munus*: a commemoration to a dead ancestor in the form of mortal combat.

Amongst the most exciting events were the restagings of historical battles. These displays, sometimes involving thousands of gladiators, served to promote the glory of Rome and, in later years, its emperor.

Female gladiators existed, but they weren't common. Their presence set a games aside as being particularly lavish.

A gladiator could submit by dropping his weapon and raising a finger – after which, it was up to the editor if he lived or died.

The editor was both the person who financed the games and the one who decided what happened to a defeated gladiator, which he did with *pollice verso* – a turned thumb. There's no consensus as to whether that means 'thumbs down'.

Sweat as honey

Gladiator sweat was bottled and sold, as it was considered to be an aphrodisiac. It was then worn as perfume.

PRIZED FIGHTERS

Gladiators were big business across the Roman Republic and, later, the Empire. Many were trained in specialist fighting schools, and the most successful (or entertaining) would gain followers and fans.

School-trained gladiators had to be hired to fight, and that made deaths expensive.

There are instances of trainers being compensated many times over the gladiator's lease price if he fell in battle.

For those organising the games – typically politicians – the eye-watering expense was often worth it, as a good show was the most effective form of self-promotion in existence.

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GENGHIS KHAN

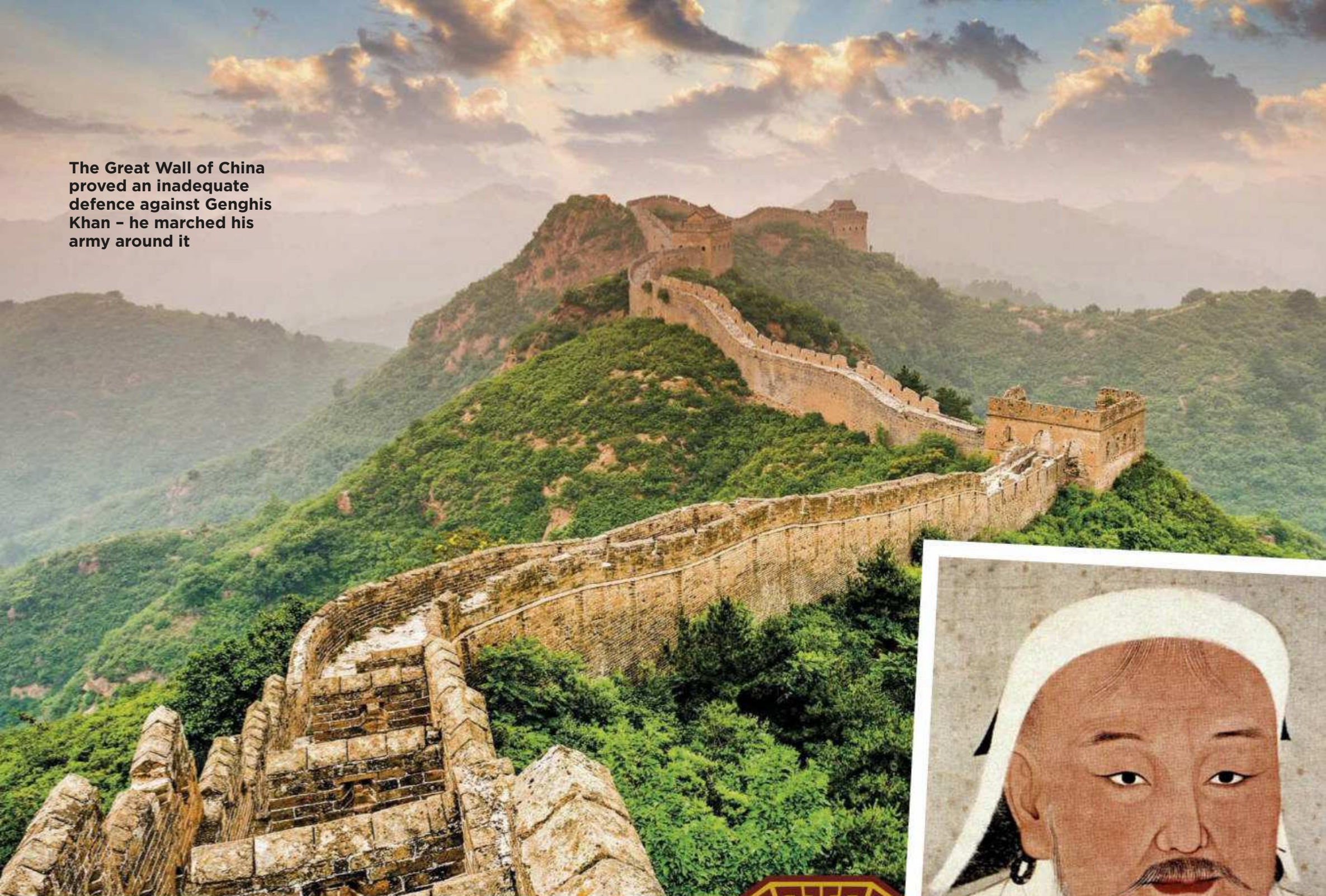
From being rejected by his clan as a boy and having to claw his way to power, the Mongol leader came to believe he was destined to conquer the world. He all but succeeded, writes Spencer Day

By revolutionising his army and his ruthlessness in battle, Genghis Khan established the largest land empire in history

GETTY X2



The Great Wall of China proved an inadequate defence against Genghis Khan – he marched his army around it



DID YOU KNOW?

Before he became Genghis Khan, responsible for an estimated 40 million deaths, he was Temujin, who, according to one account, killed his half-brother as a boy in a dispute over food.

In the early 13th century, Wanyan Yongji, mighty emperor of the Jin, sent a message to an upstart warlord who had had the temerity to invade his territory. “Our empire is as vast as the sea,” it read. “Yours is but a handful of sand. How can we fear you?”

It was a bold statement, but one that was, on the face of it at least, fully justified. For the Jin dynasty of northern China was perhaps the most powerful polity on the face of the Earth at the time. The Jin had unimaginable wealth, gunpowder and an enormous army equipped with state-of-the-art weaponry, such as catapults. What’s more, they could call upon the protection of one of the foremost engineering feats of all time, the Great Wall of China. So why should they be concerned about a nomad army riding roughshod over their land?

But there were a couple of problems. The Jin weren’t facing any old bunch of nomads, and the man commanding them wasn’t any old leader. He was Genghis Khan. Over the next two decades, the Mongol ruler would forge a reputation as arguably the greatest

military commander in history. And it was at the very heart of Wanyan Yongji’s empire – in the streets of his magnificent capital, Beijing – that he would announce himself to the world.

By the time his Mongol army first attacked Beijing in 1214, tens of thousands of hapless Chinese men, women and children had already become acquainted with Genghis Khan’s ‘talents’ as a brutal, destructive force. A few years earlier, he had launched a massive invasion of northwest China, pillaging, plundering and killing on an epic scale. Not even the Great Wall could stop him. Instead of attempting to assault it, he simply took his army around the side.

BUILDING AN EMPIRE

Now, having arrived at Beijing, Genghis Khan faced another wall, the one surrounding the city. It was 12 metres high, 10 miles long and bristling with defenders ready to rain down molten metals, crude oil, even excrement and poisons onto the Mongols. “I had trained

There are no surviving contemporary portraits of Genghis Khan. This Chinese painting comes from the 14th century

my men to attack with the speed of the wind,” Genghis Khan recalled. “Now they had to learn the guile of the wolf.” And so he waited... and waited, slowly strangling the Jin capital in a long siege. Thousands starved within the walls and the population resorted to cannibalism. And still Genghis Khan waited until, in early summer 1215, with the populace at breaking point, he ordered his men to storm the city.

The walls were scaled, the defenders overcome, and what followed was utter annihilation. For one month, his army burned, plundered and raped

“HE TURNED A RAG-BAG COLLECTION OF TRIBES INTO AN UNSTOPPABLE JUGGERNAUT”

with abandon. The city of the utmost sophistication, famed for its grand palaces and markets overflowing with silks and spices, had been reduced to a charnel house. A year later, visiting ambassadors reported that the streets of Beijing were “slippery with human fat”. They also recorded that beyond the walls stood a mountain of bones.

Genghis Khan – the butt of a Chinese emperor’s jokes and leader of two million illiterate nomads – had brought the Jin to their knees. That achievement in itself would have been enough to elevate him into the pantheon of great military commanders. But for Genghis Khan, it was just the start.

Over the course of the century, he and his successors built the largest contiguous empire in the history of the world, a 12-million-square-mile swathe of land that stretched from the Sea of Japan to the grasslands of Hungary in the heart of Europe. To put that into context, the Mongol Empire grew to four times the size of the one created by that other great conqueror, Alexander the Great, and twice the size of the Roman Empire. Some three billion of the seven billion people alive today live in countries that formed part of the Mongol Empire.

Yet perhaps more astonishing still is the story of the catalyst behind this extraordinary feat of empire-building. Unlike Alexander the Great or Julius Caesar before him, Genghis Khan didn’t fine-tune an already impressive military machine. He turned a rag-bag collection of tribes – with no permanent homes, precious few possessions and a long history of butchering one another – into an unstoppable juggernaut. And he did so from fraught beginnings.

START WITH NOTHING

Genghis Khan didn’t become Genghis Khan until well into his 40s. When he was born in c1162, the son of a tribal warrior chief, he was named Temujin. *The Secret History of the Mongols*, the oldest-surviving literary work in the Mongolian language, set down shortly after his death, tells us that he was born clutching a blood clot, a sign that he would be a brave warrior.

If Temujin was destined for greatness, there were few signs during his early years. At the age of eight or nine, his father was poisoned by a rival tribe, the Tatars, and he and his mother were rejected by their clan and forced out onto the grasslands of Mongolia, where they survived by foraging for berries, rats and birds. It was a humiliating, pitiful existence. “They left us with nothing,” remembered Temujin. “We had no friends but our own shadows.”

Being friendless in the cutthroat world of 13th-century Mongolia was not



ABOVE: For killing his father, Genghis Khan took retribution on the Tatar tribe
LEFT: The Mongol army besieged and razed cities from China to Europe, leaving millions dead along the way

◀ a good place to be. The young Temujin came to the realisation that his best chance of reversing his fortunes – and creating a powerbase for himself – lay in establishing alliances.

When he was just 16, he did exactly that by marrying a girl called Börte of the Olkhonud tribe. “Börte was mine and so was her tribe,” was Temujin’s triumphant, if far from romantic, verdict on the union. Yet on the violent, febrile Mongolian steppe, even getting married could spell trouble. No sooner had Temujin and Börte been wed than a rival tribe, the Merkit, ambushed Temujin and rode off with his bride.

UNIVERSAL RULER

Temujin was desperate to get revenge, but knew he couldn’t do so on his own. “A man who seeks power needs friends with power,” he would later write. So he sought to secure another alliance, this time with a formidable leader named Toghrul. Temujin won over Toghrul by reminding him that he had fought alongside his father, and sugar-coated the offer with a lavish sable coat. The gambit worked. With the aid of Toghrul’s fighters, Temujin attacked the Merkit and won back his wife. “We destroyed their families and emptied their breasts,” he said. By putting a powerful tribe to sword, Temujin’s ascent to becoming the ultimate power in Mongolia had well and truly begun.

Someone, however, stood in his way, and it was one of his greatest friends.

Temujin had been blood brothers with a fellow warrior named Jamukha, also the son of a Mongolian tribal leader, for a number of years. In fact, Jamukha had played an instrumental role in the defeat of the Merkit. Yet, as the two had grown older, cracks began to appear in their friendship. Jamukha had grown distrustful of Temujin’s growing power – especially his penchant for meritocracy, promoting people on the basis of their talent rather than their breeding. Soon, his distrust morphed into outright war.

When Jamukha struck, it was with bloodthirsty ferocity. He defeated Temujin’s fighters high on the plateau of central Mongolia, and then had Temujin’s captured generals boiled alive. “The earth was soaked with the blood of my warriors,” wrote Temujin. “Never again would I be defeated and my loyal warriors so dishonoured.”

DID YOU KNOW?

Temujin almost died in battle in 1201 when his horse was shot from under him. Rather than punishing the man who fired the arrow, he made him an officer in his army and named him ‘Jebe’, or arrow.

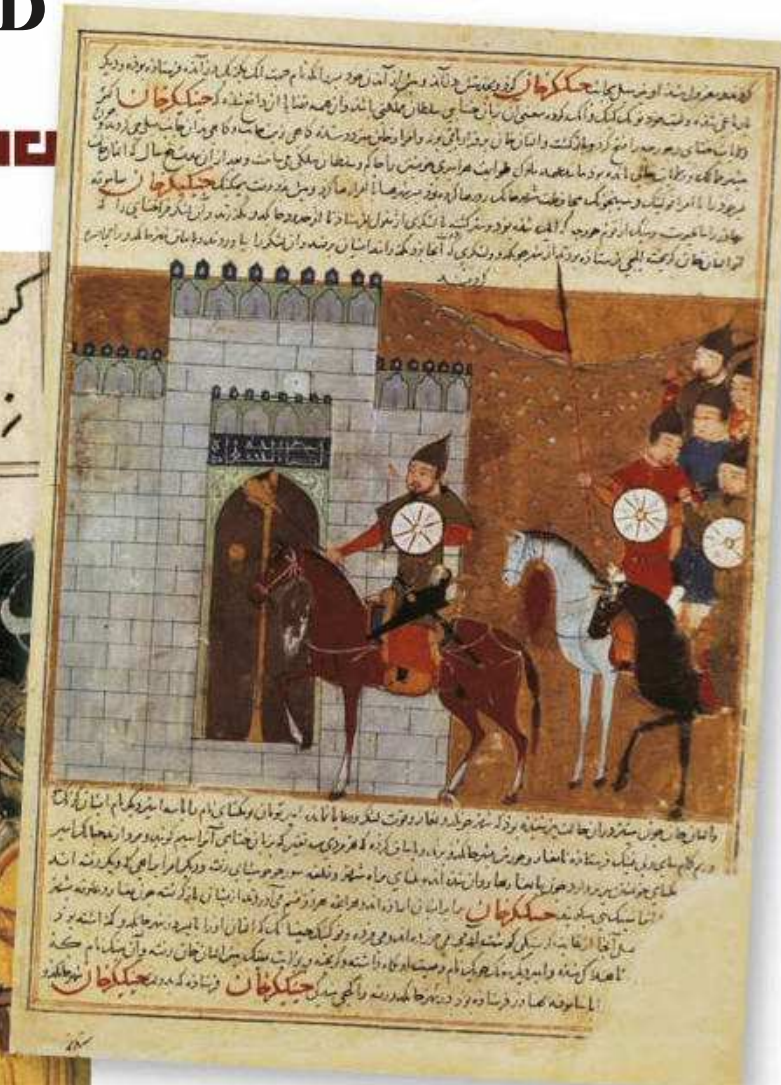
He was good to his word, and when his revenge came, it was total. Temujin’s army fell on Jamukha’s warriors in the summer of 1204, defeating them in a blizzard of arrows and cavalry charges. Then a few months later, Jamukha was captured. Rather than dish out a fate similar to what befell his generals, though, Temujin

showed him mercy... up to a point. Jamukha asked for a noble death, which meant without the shedding of blood. His former friend granted him that, so had his back broken.

Temujin’s victory helped make him the most powerful warrior on the Mongolian steppe. Two years later, he achieved something yet more remarkable, uniting Mongolia’s warring tribes under one leader. Now he would go about turning them into a dynasty-defeating fighting force, and he would do so under a new epithet: Genghis Khan, meaning ‘universal ruler’.

Among the first people to feel the force of the newly united Mongol nation was the Western Xia of northwest China, who succumbed to a sustained Mongol invasion. In 1211, Genghis followed that by attacking the Jin,

“HE SHOWED HIS FORMER FRIEND MERCY... UP TO A POINT. HE HAD HIS BACK BROKEN”



LEFT: Genghis Khan is seated with his wife Börte. Together, they had nine children ABOVE: Mongols lay siege to Beijing in this 14th-century work by prominent historian Rashid al-Din

Even Mongol rulers like Genghis Khan and his grandson Kublai, seen in a Chinese silk painting, mastered the art of firing a bow on horseback



gobbling up land, cities and loot in a spectacular campaign that culminated in the fall of Beijing.

What, other than Genghis Khan's military genius, made the Mongols so intimidating? At the heart of their success were their horse-mounted archers who, in the words of historian Frank McLynn, inspired "a quantum leap in military technology". Mongolians trained in archery and horsemanship from a young age – Genghis Khan probably learned how to fire an arrow from horseback by the age of about three – and mastered how to achieve maximum accuracy by releasing their arrows just as all of their horse's hooves left the ground.

The Mongolians were highly adept at communicating over large distances, something they had honed over centuries of rounding up animals on the steppe. This enabled them to slowly tighten the noose around the enemy.

Guile was another key weapon in the Mongol armoury. Genghis Khan relied heavily on spies and was certainly not above using fake news as a tactic. In one instance, he employed a campaign of disinformation to confirm one Muslim shah's suspicion that his subordinates were plotting against him. Genghis Khan was also a master of the feigned retreat, luring opponents out of defensive positions before delivering a lethal strike.

Combine all this with his ability to quickly assimilate new technologies into his own army – such as Chinese siege weapons, mortars, gunpowder, not to mention thousands of captured troops – and you had a truly formidable foe.

UTTER SAVAGERY

And then, of course, there was terror. "Those who surrendered would be spared," Genghis Khan is reported as saying. "Those who did not surrender but opposed with struggle and dissension would be annihilated." It was no idle boast. Cities that put up a fight were routinely subjected to an orgy of destruction: their men butchered, women raped and buildings razed.

As a strategy of war, the 'exemplary massacre' was utterly brutal, but as a means of dissuading resistance, it was chillingly effective. As many as 30 million people may have died during the Mongols' campaigns in China alone. Yet in terms of sheer barbarity, the worst was yet to come.

Having subdued the Western Xia and Jin to the east, Genghis Khan looked to establish trade links to his west. He sent emissaries into the Khwarezmid Empire (modern-day Afghanistan and Iraq). They carried – according to contemporary Persian historian Juzjani – the following message to their ruler, Ala ad-Din Muhammad: "I am master

GENGHIS KHAN: ENLIGHTENED RULER?

The Genghis Khan of popular imagination tends to be a pitiless killer, leading a merciless army across the land and building an empire on the bones of millions. But there was another, often overlooked, side to him, and that was as the enlightened ruler who realised that if his Mongol Empire was to prove sustainable, he would have to work with the peoples he had subjugated.

He certainly wasn't averse to exploiting these people's skills, identifying the best artisans across the empire and bringing them back to Mongolia. As a result, his capital of Karakorum bristled with small communities of foreign silversmiths, silk-weavers, artists, architects and the like. And whether they were Christian, Muslim or Buddhist, it appears they were free to worship in peace.

Another key to Genghis Khan's success was his promotion of trade. The empire made the world a smaller place, in effect serving as a transmission belt for technology, science and goods between areas as diverse as China, Iran and eastern Europe. Without these Mongol trade routes, Marco Polo could never have made his celebrated journey from Europe to China in the late 13th century.

Greasing the wheels of this connectivity was the Mongols' celebrated postal system. The wide-reaching network of routes connected by regular staging posts enabled a message to travel 125 miles in a single day. It remained the fastest way of sending messages across Asia until the advent of the railways.

BELOW: A stone tortoise marks the site of Genghis Khan's capital

RIGHT: Medallions like this ensured safe travel across the Mongol Empire



Continues on p36

MONGOL WARRIORS

Made up of nomads from different tribes, Genghis Khan's army became the greatest war machine of the 13th century

BOW AND ARROW

The best Mongol bows had a range of over 450 metres, and archers could fire up to six arrows a minute.

SPEAR

Mongols used spears and lances on horseback and on foot. They could be thrown or used to impale enemies.

DAGGER

Strapped to the left arm would be a small dagger. Impractical on horseback, they were effective in close-range fighting.

SIEGE ENGINE

Arguably the Mongols' most important weapon in city assaults. The army travelled with engineers able to construct them from materials on site.

HORSE

Each man had several horses so they could rotate during long journeys, allowing the army to move great distances quickly.

SHIELD

To protect their faces, Mongol cavalymen carried small shields made of wicker or willow and covered in leather.

FORGING AN EMPIRE

The tough conditions of the Mongolian steppe had taught the tribesmen hunting, horsemanship and hardiness, but under Genghis Khan, they became a highly trained and disciplined force, capable of unprecedented mobility and crushing substantially larger enemies. By the time of his death, the army had swept across Eurasia and the empire only grew under his successors. It did not last, however. The empire fractured during the late 13th century, and, in 1368, the Ming Dynasty took control of China.



■ The empire at Genghis Khan's death in 1227 ■ At its greatest extent c1279

ARMS AND ARMOUR

The Mongols travelled swift and light, but were always ready for battle

HELMET

In common with other civilisations, Mongols wore rounded helmets as they deflected arrows.



SILK SHIRT

Shirts made of silk were worn under the armour. Arrows tended not to puncture silk, so it would wrap around an arrow when a warrior was hit, making it easier to remove.



ARMOUR

Most warriors fought as light cavalry. Armour would be made of hardened leather or iron, which weighed less and was more flexible than European mail.



STIRRUPS

Metal stirrups made it easier for Mongol warriors to twist in the saddle, so they could fire arrows in any direction. This allowed them to use highly effective feigned retreats.

SABRE

Mongol swords were a slightly curved scimitar, perfect for slashing attacks and cut-and-thrust combat.



MACE

Wielding a mace on horseback was another deadly weapon. This elaborately decorated version suggests it belonged to a warrior of high status.

Q&A

The legacy of Genghis Khan



With **John Man**, author of *The Mongol Empire: Genghis Khan, His Heirs and the Founding of Modern China* (Corgi, 2015)

Q WHAT MADE GENGHIS KHAN A GREAT LEADER?

A He never stopped learning and was endlessly willing to adapt. He realised early on that the only way to prosper was to strike alliances with rival tribes. Then, when he became Genghis Khan, he came up with the idea of breaking up tribes and distributing them into different parts of the army. This was a brilliant way of quelling inter-tribal feuding. And, of course, he promoted through merit, which meant that the greatest talents got to the top.

Q IS GENGHIS KHAN THE GREATEST MILITARY COMMANDER?

A He's undoubtedly in the top three. You could make an argument for Alexander the Great rivalling him. The same goes for Napoleon who, like Genghis Khan, was a genius at marshalling both the military and civil side of his administration.

Q HOW DID HE ENSURE LOYALTY AMONG HIS FOLLOWERS?

A Everyone loves a winner. The more he won, the more people rallied to his flag. And in a country without money, many would have been attracted by the spoils of war. Genghis Khan was generous to those who showed loyalty – he was not the sort of leader to squirrel his wealth away in the 13th-century equivalent of a Swiss bank account!

Q HOW BLOODTHIRSTY WAS GENGHIS KHAN?

A He was more bloodthirsty than his contemporaries, but that's only because he was more successful. I'd argue that he showed great restraint. He realised that to create an empire, he had to work with people afterwards, and would only resort to killing if it served his purpose. That probably explains his use of the 'exemplary massacre'. Sieges

are extremely expensive and require a lot of manpower – the best way to avoid them was to terrify cities into surrendering in advance.

Q IT IS SAID THAT ONE-IN-200 MEN TODAY CAN TRACE THEIR LINEAGE TO GENGHIS KHAN. HOW MANY WOMEN DID HE SLEEP WITH?

A He wasn't notably licentious. Captured women were currency to be given away or used as bargaining chips. There's little doubt that Genghis Khan passed many captured women around to his followers.

Q WHAT WAS HIS GREATEST MILITARY VICTORY?

A The siege of Beijing. It was the first really big one. Once he had captured one major city, he acquired more manpower and siege weapons to use against others.

Q WHAT MOTIVATED GENGHIS KHAN?

A According to later Mongolian sources, he was inspired by the heavens to rule the Earth. I think that idea came from hindsight, not the man himself. I'd argue that each conquest inspired the next, until the whole thing gathered an unstoppable momentum. Empires are never big enough or secure enough – if you're the emperor, you've always got to keep going.

Q HOW DID GENGHIS KHAN CHANGE THE WORLD?

A His greatest legacy was, for me, the vision of world rule that grew up after his death – put into practice by his son Ögodei and grandson Kublai Khan. That ultimately led to the unification of China, and it's remained unified ever since. So it could be argued that perhaps his longest-lasting achievement is modern-day China.



“EACH SOLDIER IN THE 7,000-STRONG INVADING ARMY WAS ALLOTTED 300 PEOPLE TO KILL”

of the lands of the rising sun while you rule those of the setting sun. Let us conclude a firm treaty of friendship and peace.” The response was emphatic. It was the head of one of Genghis Khan's ambassadors in a sack. When he learned of this grisly snub, he flew into a rage that would change the course of history. Within a matter of months, Genghis Khan had dispatched an army of 200,000 men to teach the shah a lesson that the people of central Asia wouldn't forget for generations.

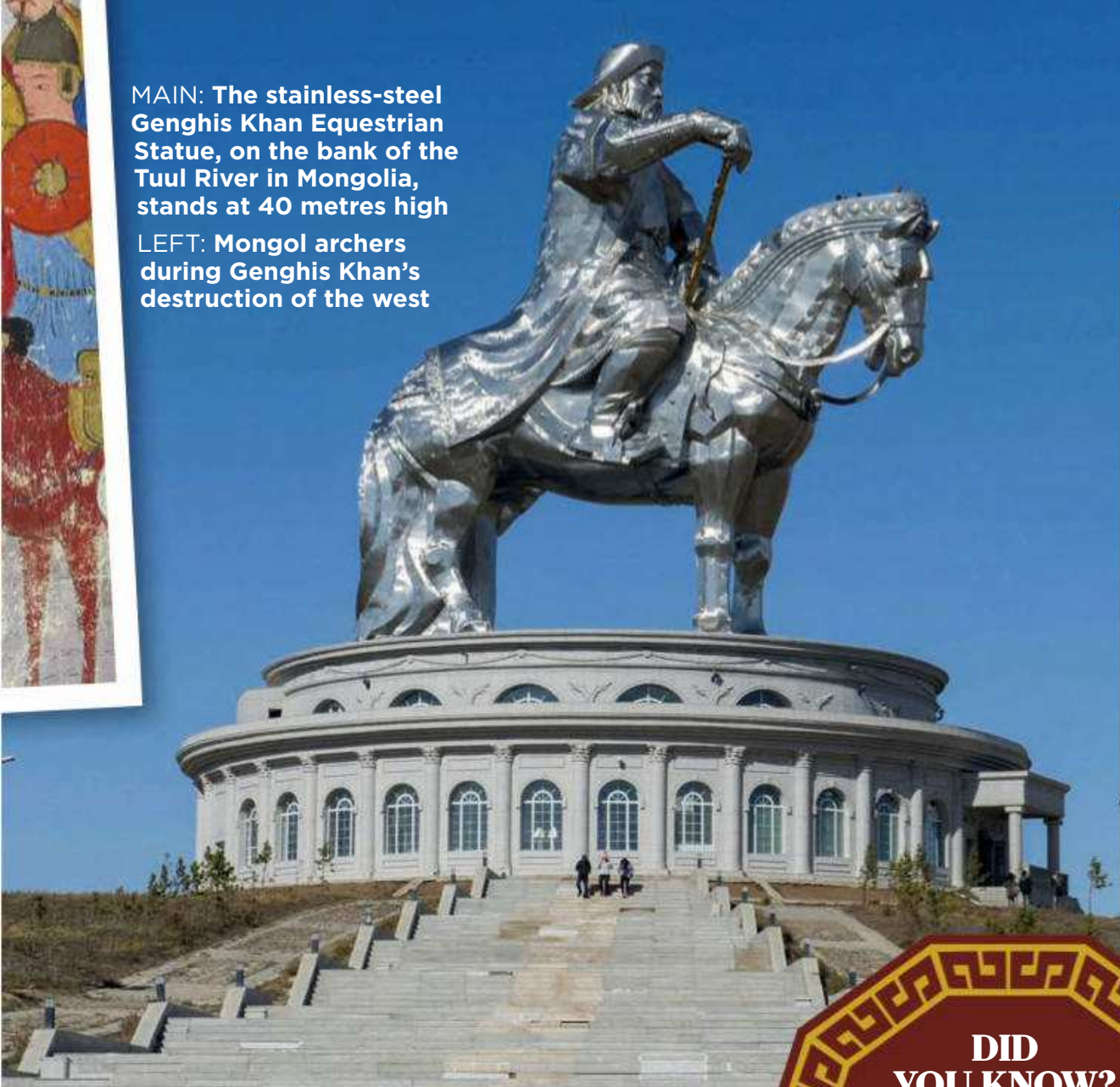
Some of the most notorious of all Mongol atrocities were perpetrated during this campaign, visited upon the eastern outposts of Islam. The city of Gurganj in modern-day Turkmenistan felt the full brunt of Genghis Khan's fury. Muslim historians record that, after it succumbed to a five-month siege, 50,000 Mongol soldiers slaughtered ten men each.

Among their other victims was the oasis city of Merv (also Turkmenistan), whose libraries, constituting the greatest collection in central Asia, contained 150,000 volumes. By the time Genghis Khan's forces had finished, the city and its libraries lay in ruins, and each soldier in the 7,000-strong invading army was allotted around 300 people to kill. Most had their throats slit.

Genghis Khan was, it appears, entirely unrepentant for violence. “I am the punishment of God,” was his defiant message. “If you had not committed

MAIN: The stainless-steel Genghis Khan Equestrian Statue, on the bank of the Tuul River in Mongolia, stands at 40 metres high

LEFT: Mongol archers during Genghis Khan's destruction of the west



DID YOU KNOW?

A scientific study found that Genghis Khan's conquests removed around 700 million tonnes of carbon dioxide from the atmosphere, as previously populated areas turned to woods and forests.



The ruins of Merv, one of the world's mightiest cities before the Mongols arrived

great sins, God would not have inflicted a punishment such as me upon you."

By 1225, the Mongol campaign in central Asia was effectively over. Countless cities had been razed, millions lay dead and Genghis Khan now presided over an empire that extended west to the Caspian Sea.

MORE TO CONQUER

Was he now prepared to rest on his laurels? To sit back and savour the spoils of victory? Not a bit of it. Mongol texts tell us that Genghis Khan genuinely believed that it was his destiny to conquer the world for his god, Tengri. Whatever his motivation, within a year he was on the campaign trail again, leading an army back into China. But it was not to be. During 1227, he was taken ill and died only days later. His body was transported all the way back to Mongolia, where it was buried

somewhere unknown near a sacred mountain. Its location remains a mystery to this day.

According to legend, Genghis Khan's last words to a few faithful followers were: "I have conquered for you a large empire. But my life was too short to take the whole world. That I leave to you." Whether he uttered these short sentences or not, his successors were more than happy to take up the challenge. Genghis Khan was dead, but as the people of Asia and Europe would learn to their cost over the next seven decades, the Mongols weren't done with conquest quite yet. 🎯

GET HOOKED

BOOK

As well as *The Mongol Empire: Genghis Khan, His Heirs and the Founding of Modern China*, historian John Man is author of *Genghis Khan: Life, Death and Resurrection* (Bantam, 2005)

MONGOLS IN EUROPE

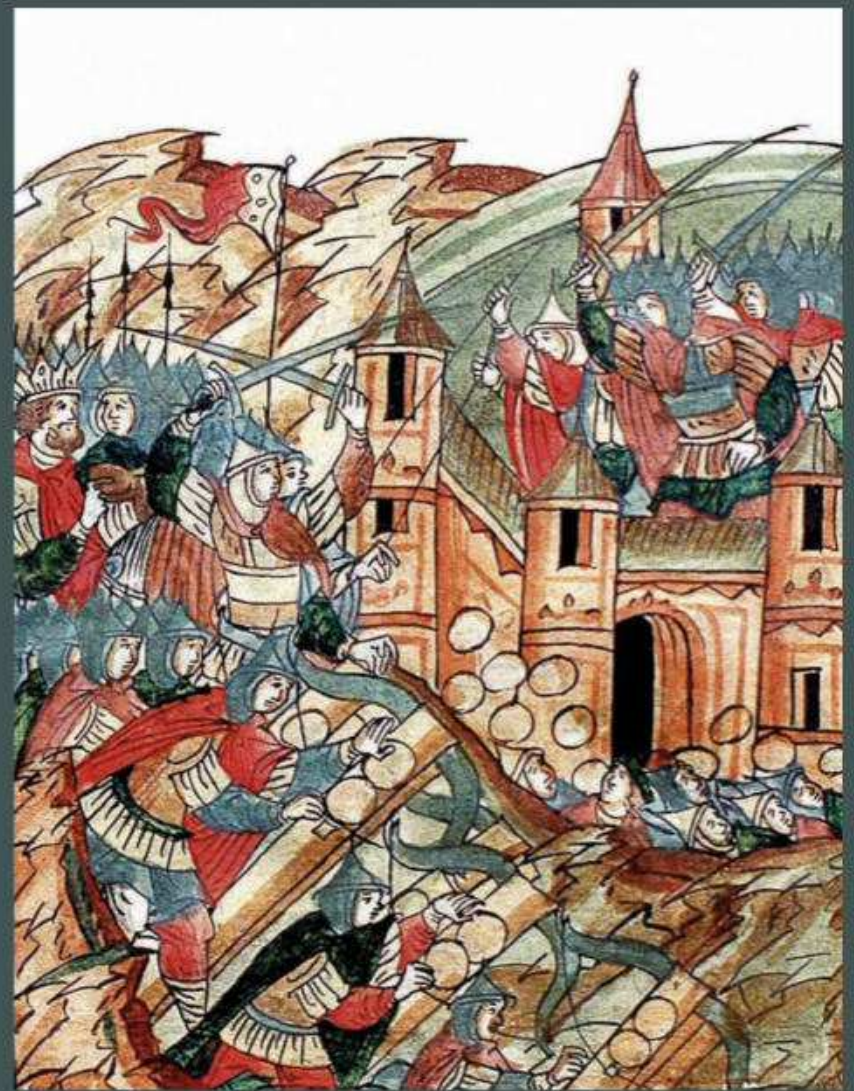


Genghis Khan may have breathed his last in 1227, but his death didn't signal the peak of the Mongol Empire, or the end of their thirst for conquest. Far from it. Genghis Khan's son and successor, Ögodei Khan, had a lust for land and spoil every bit as insatiable as his father, and the people of eastern Europe would soon reap the consequences.

In the autumn of 1237, a Mongol army crossed the Middle Volga and fell upon the principalities of central Russia. Town after town was ransacked, including, in 1240, Kiev. "After they had besieged the city for a long time," reported the papal envoy Giovanni da Pian del Carpine, "they took it and put the inhabitants to death."

Then the Mongols surged into Poland and Hungary, the speed of their cavalry, the firing range of their archers and their well-honed siege methods overwhelming the defenders.

By 1241, as shock troops raided the outskirts of Vienna, western Europe appeared to be at the mercy of the Mongols. But then, virtually overnight, they were gone. Ögodei had died suddenly and his armies had returned home to elect a new khan, never to return. Europe had got a spectacular break.



ABOVE: A 16th-century illustration from a Russian chronicle shows the siege of Kiev TOP RIGHT: Ögodei Khan expanded the empire farther than his father

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Becket was butchered in his own cathedral by four knights, but did they have Henry II's implicit backing?

THOMAS BECKET MURDER IN THE CATHEDRAL

.....

He was a friend and a thorn to Henry II, man of the state and then of the Church, heroic martyr and then reviled traitor. **Emma Wells** uncovers the contradictions of this most turbulent priest



DID YOU KNOW?

Becket is central to Geoffrey Chaucer's *The Canterbury Tales*: it is to his shrine that all of the pilgrims are travelling.



ABOVE: **Augustine of Hippo** helped develop the Church's concept of Original Sin

LEFT: The cracks in Becket's relationship with Henry appeared after he became archbishop

“Becket’s memory was obliterated by royal edict in the 16th century”

On the afternoon of 29 December 1170, Thomas Becket, Archbishop of Canterbury, was retiring in his private quarters. His transition from royal favourite to enemy of the state had been swift. Unwittingly, his actions had inspired outrage in Henry II, then residing in France, and incited four knights to slip across the Channel to rid the realm of the “low-born clerk”.

The knights who arrived at Becket's lodgings that night – William de Tracy, Reginald Fitz-Urse, Hugh de Morville and Richard le Bret – claimed to bear a message from the King. A violent struggle ensued as they attempted to take Becket prisoner. Taking refuge in Canterbury Cathedral, Becket stood resolute as the knights closed in. Glimpsing their drawn swords, he declared, “I am prepared to die for my Lord, so that in my blood the Church will attain liberty and peace.”

William de Tracy cast the first blow, slicing the top off the archbishop's

cranium. As the blood streamed down Becket's face, his knees buckled, and de Tracy once again struck the priest's head. As Becket lay in torment beside St Benedict's altar, le Bret wielded his sword, striking him with such force that his whole tonsured crown was sliced off, sparks flying from the blade as it shattered onto the stone floor below.

A renegade clerk named Hugh of Horsea began stamping on Becket's neck, then drove his sword through the open wound, gouging out the archbishop's brains and smearing the ghastly residue over the ground. And so the life of the one-time closest confidante of Henry II – and one of the most powerful men in Europe – was extinguished.

Roman-era bishop St Augustine of Hippo remarked that, “It is the cause and not the suffering that makes the martyr”. The legacy of Thomas Becket, Archbishop of Canterbury, is encapsulated by this very sentence. In Christian history, few rivalries have achieved the notoriety of the dispute between Becket, the middle-class Londoner, and his nemesis King Henry II, the Lion in Winter.

Although Becket's tenure of office lasted a mere eight years, and his memory was officially obliterated by royal edict in the 16th century, over 800 years later his reputation endures. True, it is fair to say that not many could date his death or describe his character, but if there is one thing that people think of when they hear the name of Thomas Becket, it would be his murder in the cathedral. Yet like every good story, Becket's has faced fabrication, speculation and conspiracy theorising. Fewer medieval figures have been subject to such controversy.

When King Henry VIII ordered the demolition of Becket's shrine in 1538,



Theobald of Bec, Becket's patron, had a similarly antagonistic relationship with King Stephen

the archbishop was deemed “a rebel and traitor to his prince”; previously, he had been the heroic victim. Ever since, opinion on Becket has been divided, and not only between Catholics and Protestants. He is still perceived both as one of the greatest and worst Britons of all time. But even religious men can be murdered without meriting sympathy, canonisation, nor the turbulent reputation Becket has gained.

How, then, did the ending of his life lead him to become the most celebrated English martyr, the “light of London”, and a saint within 26 months of his death?

THE RIGHT PATRON

Becket was born in Cheapside, London, in 1120, the son of a Norman merchant. With education and talent he was able to rise rapidly from his modest beginnings. Working in the household of Theobald of Bec, then Archbishop of Canterbury, from 1143, he was brought to the attention of the young Henry II.

Becket had fast become Theobald's favourite, and had been sent to Bologna and Auxerre to study canon law, before becoming archdeacon of Canterbury. Theobald was the King's chief advisor at the outset of his reign, and it was he who arranged for Becket – then only

34 years old – to be appointed Lord Chancellor in 1155.

Having spent his early years in the secular environment of London's merchant families, Becket adapted effortlessly to royal service and its court. Yet no one could have foreseen the extraordinary friendship that blossomed between Henry and the chancellor, or the way Becket transformed his rather mundane post to the greatest office under the Crown. By his mid 30s, Becket was helping to run the country. He was even teased by Henry for his delight in ostentatious costume, which had caused Becket to be mistaken for the sovereign himself.

Six years after Becket became chancellor, Theobald died. His protégé seemed the obvious choice to replace him as Archbishop of Canterbury. Henry and Becket had become inseparable companions – “Of one mind”, wrote cleric William Fitzstephen – with Becket doing all he could to extend royal income and influence at the Church's expense.

Confident of Becket's loyalty, Henry passed over more senior and qualified men such as Gilbert Foliot, Bishop of Hereford, and appointed Becket as archbishop, for which Becket earned Foliot's eternal enmity.

There was just one obstacle: Becket had not been ordained as a priest. It was a trifle for the King, who had his friend ordained at Canterbury on 2 June 1162 and, the next day, consecrated as archbishop by another Henry, Bishop of Winchester. Becket was now archbishop, archdeacon, chancellor and the holder of many ecclesiastical benefices and royal custodies: an arch-pluralist, yet an important delegate for Henry.

If Henry had hoped Becket would now manage the Church as well as the state

on his behalf, he was to be disappointed. The King assumed his former carousing chum and chief administrator would be easily manipulated into obedience and sympathetic to the royal cause. Becket wasn't, and had even warned the King that his elevation would bring them into conflict: “For several things you do in prejudice of the rights of the Church make me fear you would require of me what I could not agree to.”

In what struck some contemporaries as a miraculous conversion, Becket swiftly resigned his role as chancellor and began to assert his commitment to defending Church rights. Gone were the costly furs and silks; in their place was monastic garb atop a coarse goat-hair shirt. He was now the Church's man alone.

A ROYAL PAIN

Predictably, Becket soon came into conflict with Henry. The mounting hostility between them had many causes, but paramount was the exemption of clergy from the jurisdiction of the secular courts. Becket insisted on “benefit of clergy”: the right of anyone in holy orders to be tried only in a Church court. Since the Church courts did not inflict the death penalty, this was no small matter. Henry was determined to increase control of his realm by eliminating this custom. The King responded with a clear intention to humiliate the archbishop: raking up claims against him during his time as chancellor, Henry demanded huge sums that Becket could not possibly pay.

Servants and friends slowly began to abandon Becket as news of Henry's royal displeasure spread. He was then summoned to attend a council of magnates at Northampton Castle on

BELOW LEFT: Becket also excommunicated a slew of Henry's advisors in 1166
BELOW RIGHT: Becket meets with Henry II and Louis VII of France





LEFT: Henry the Young King was crowned, but never became Henry III. He predeceased his father, leaving the future Richard I as heir apparent

“Fearing for his life, Becket fled to Flanders in November 1164”

6 October 1164, to answer a charge made by royal servant John Marshal that he had denied him justice in his feudal court. Now these tensions broke out into open conflict. And it wasn't just the King who had an axe to grind: the great magnates, who had never much love for the upstart merchant's son, bellowed slurs after Becket declared that they had no authority to sit in judgment on him.

Fearing for his life, Becket fled to Flanders in November 1164. Six years of fruitless negotiations ensued as he became a pawn in twisted power struggles, largely between Henry and Louis VII of France. Things went from bad to worse when Henry requested his eldest son, Young Henry, be crowned as titular king to secure the succession. The coronation ceremony was traditionally conducted by the Archbishop of Canterbury. Becket was not only unavailable in exile; he forbade the crowning, perceiving it as contradictory to England's customs and envisaging it would lead to trouble with France.

Regardless, Henry was determined to have his way. The coronation took place in Westminster Abbey on 14 June 1170, performed by Roger de Pont l'Évêque, Archbishop of York, assisted by some ten English and Norman bishops. Becket returned to England in December 1170, and in a fit of anger he excommunicated de Pont l'Évêque and the bishops of London and Salisbury, who had diplomatically supported Henry in his pursuit to dislodge clerical privilege.

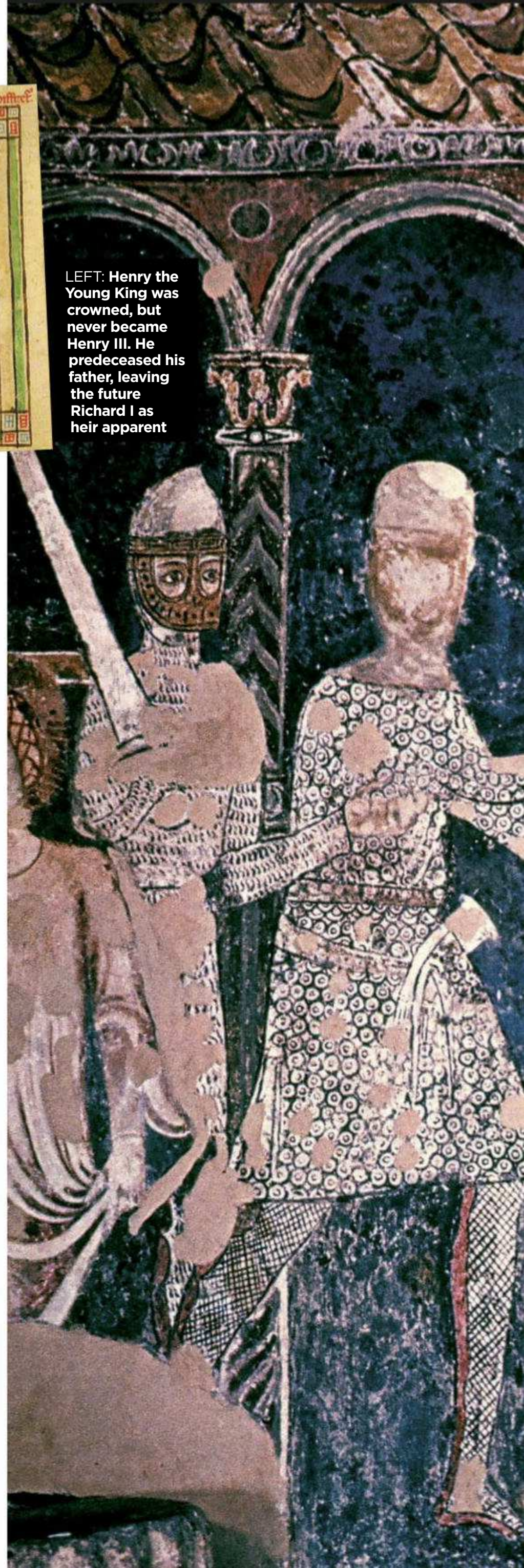
Henry was in Normandy for Christmas when he heard of the archbishop's actions. Incandescent with rage, he

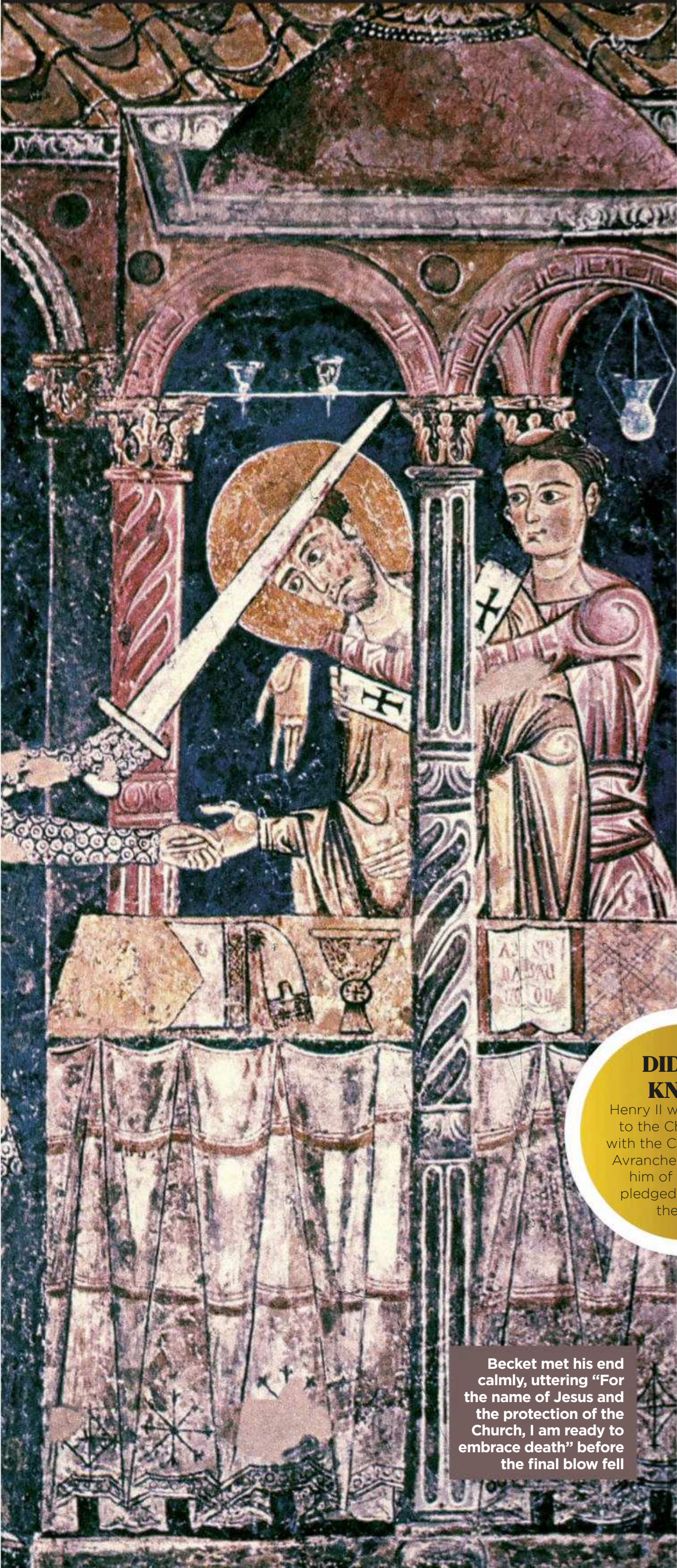
ordered Becket's arrest, uttering the fateful words, “What miserable drones and traitors have I nurtured and promoted in my household, who let their lord be treated with such shameful contempt by a low-born clerk?” And so four knights, who had interpreted this outburst as a mandate to kill the archbishop, set sail for England.

MAN BECOMES MYTH

Their brutal crime was the conclusion of a power struggle between the Church and the state that should have been an argument between archbishop and king. It scandalised Christendom. The murder was reported in chilling detail, with five of Becket's companions at Canterbury writing eyewitness accounts. But disparity of opinion was rife: his slaughter unleashed outpourings of sorrow and outrage, yet not everyone had revised their impression of him as an arrogant troublemaker, whose actions had been harmful not only to the King but to the interests of the Church he claimed to embody.

To Canterbury Cathedral, his slaying was a mixed blessing. On the one hand, the savage act polluted its sacred walls. On the other, it turned out to be good business. The murder was viewed as martyrdom, which resonated with medieval people. From 1171, as fear diminished and word spread, the resident monks took the first tentative steps towards allowing access to Becket's tomb in the crypt. Soon, reports emerged of miraculous healings taking place in its vicinity.





A ROD FOR HIS OWN BACK THE KING'S PENANCE

Despite Henry II's claims that Becket had been murdered by "excommunicates and others from England", the howls of fury from Louis VII of France and others were enough to cast doubt on the King's guileless position, as was Becket's canonisation as a saint and a martyr in February 1173.

Henry's reputation was tarnished, and across his vast dominions both his subjects and his sons had begun to plot rebellion – which would become the Great Revolt of 1173-74. Many viewed this unrest as God's punishment for the unatoned-for murder of the archbishop. Henry spent much of the revolt defending his possessions in Normandy, but when he returned to England in July 1174, his first act was to seek the martyr's grace by doing public penance at Becket's tomb.

Confessing to indirect responsibility for Becket's death, on 12 July he entered Canterbury in a sackcloth and walked barefoot to the tomb, where he stripped naked, lay prostrate and was ceremoniously beaten with rods of birch or elm by the hundred or more bishops and monks present. And he was rewarded, it seemed – the next day his forces captured the Scottish King, William the Lion, who had been leading the rebels in northern England.

Henry II visited the tomb at least nine times more during his reign, and he was followed by many of his successors to the English crown keen to associate themselves with the memory of the martyr. Among them were his own sons, Richard I and John.

DID YOU KNOW?

Henry II was reconciled to the Church in 1172 with the Compromise of Avranches. It absolved him of blame and pledged him to take the cross.

Becket met his end calmly, uttering "For the name of Jesus and the protection of the Church, I am ready to embrace death" before the final blow fell



Penitential beatings could not restore Henry's reputation with his family – the fallout of the 'Becket Controversy' was one factor that sparked his sons' rebellions

Becket's shrine in Canterbury Cathedral is long gone, but there is an altar marking the spot where he was cut down

DID YOU KNOW?

Becket practised the penitential discipline of flagellation on his bare back.

“He had gone from a traitor to his liege and the realm to England's martyr”

In the following decade the custodians of the tomb, Benedict of Peterborough and William of Canterbury, chronicled the miracle accounts – over 700 in total – and an extraordinary number of ‘*Lives*’ were produced. These *Lives*, or *vitae*, were a series of accounts of Becket's life and death from biographers and eye-witnesses, and they provide invaluable insight into the dramatic events in which he was involved. So many pilgrims visited his tomb that it eventually overtook St Cuthbert's shrine at Durham as the most popular pilgrimage site in England, and catering to visitors' needs became Canterbury's principal industry.

An estimated 100,000 people visited the tomb in the year after Becket's death alone, with donations valuing almost £30,000 – the equivalent of £16 million in today's money. Becket's overwhelming acclaim demanded official recognition, and fast. By 3 May 1171, at least ten cures were being recorded each day, forcing the monks to recruit extra help to deal with the paperwork needed to convince the Pope that the archbishop should receive a sainthood.

On 21 February 1173, the Canterbury monks got their wish. Becket was canonised by Pope Alexander III. Within three years of his murder, he had gone from a traitor to his liege and the realm to England's martyr, hailed by the people and the Church.

The “hooly blisful martir” of Geoffrey Chaucer's *Canterbury Tales* lay in the cathedral crypt until 7 July 1220, when his relics were moved in a magnificent ceremony led by Henry III to a more worthy and lavish setting, built after a dramatic fire in 1174 thanks to the new-found wealth of the community. An elaborate golden shrine studded with precious gems atop a marble altar was elevated to the newly constructed Trinity Chapel in the cathedral's east end, so ever greater numbers of pilgrims could visit.

Henry VIII destroyed both the shrine and Becket's bones during the 16th-century Dissolution of the Monasteries, yet the priest's memory lives on – to some he is a saint, to others quite the opposite. But the impact of his cult is undeniable, influencing the literature, history and even spirituality of the medieval world and beyond. 🎯

GET HOOKED

READ

Emma Wells is an ecclesiastical historian at the University of York. Her most recent book is *Pilgrim Routes of the British Isles* (Robert Hale, 2016).

MIRACLE CURES THE CULT OF BECKET

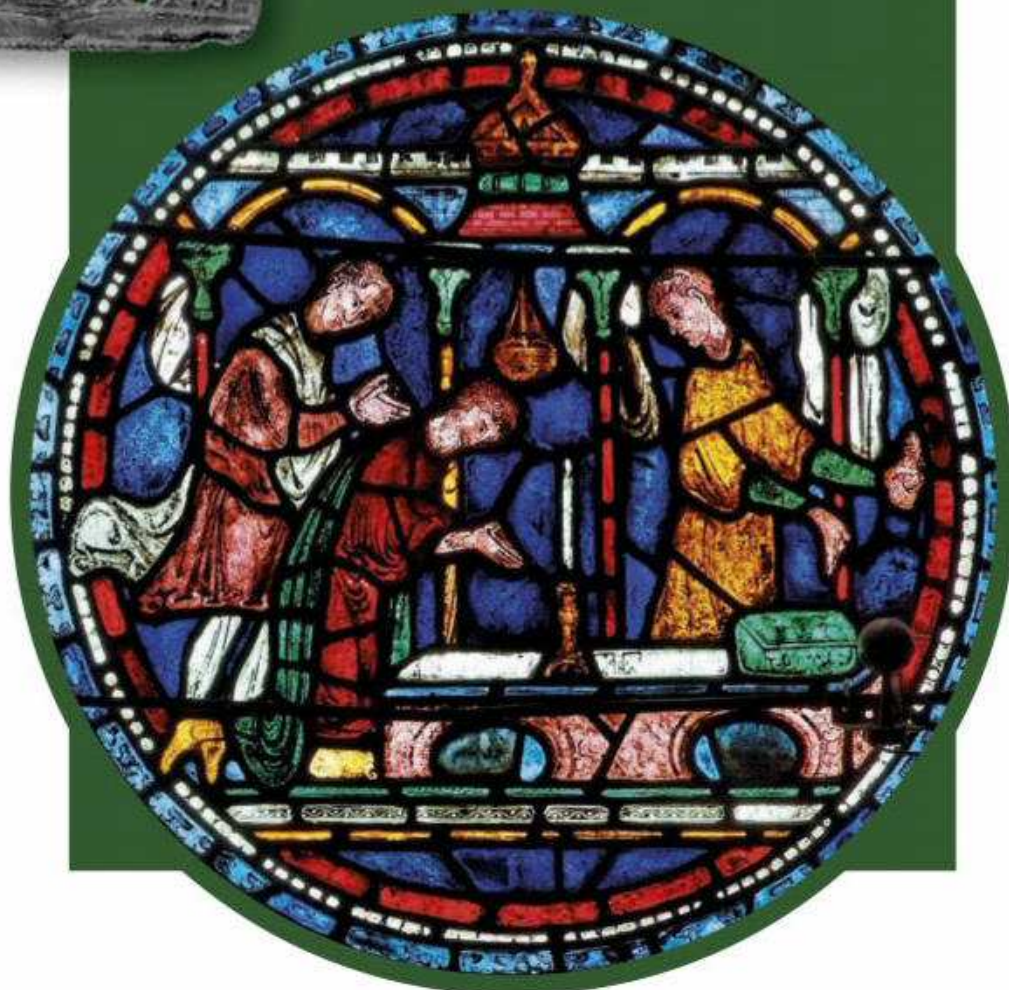
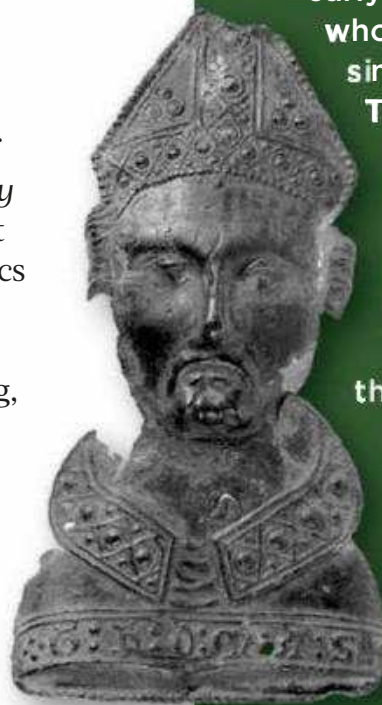
Soon after Becket's martyrdom, a cult associated with the curative power of the archbishop emerged at Canterbury and claims of miracles were reported at his tomb. Pilgrims from all over Europe flocked to the city for Becket's intercession and healing. It became the most-visited pilgrimage site in the country.

Two monks of the cathedral, Benedict of Peterborough and William of Canterbury, were drafted in to chronicle the miracles – 703 of them over ten years – which included healing through prayer, drinking the “water of St Thomas” (his blood mixed with holy water), or simply visiting his tomb. The maladies and disabilities cured ranged from leprosy (defined as any skin disease) and dropsy to blindness, paralysis and demonic possession. Yet, in a world without medicine, most made the journey in the hope of assuaging more common problems.

The first recorded miraculous cure was on 4 January 1171. A blind woman named Britheva regained her sight after a neighbour touched her eyes with a rag soaked in Becket's blood. Another early miracle involved a local country thief who, having been blinded and castrated, was similarly restored through the merits of St Thomas. Epilepsy-sufferer Petronella of Polesworth was cured after bathing her feet in the saint's water, while Ethelreda of Canterbury, ailed with a malarial disease known as quartan fever, fully recovered after drinking the mixture.

Each pilgrim then left with a token of their visit – a metal badge or vial filled with his water, in return for a donation.

Medieval pilgrims rushed to pray at Becket's shrine (*below*), where they could also buy badges bearing his likeness (*left*)





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Forget* 

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So many fallen soldiers in World War I were left and lost; they were lucky to be hastily buried, perhaps with a wooden cross and a few personal effects

1914-1918



“THEIR NAME LIVETH FOR EVERMORE”

World War I forever changed not only how wars were fought, but how nations honour their fallen soldiers. As **Gavin Mortimer** explores, this was down to one man who wanted to ensure that the dead would never be forgotten

Canadian and British troops capture the high ground of Vimy Ridge in northern France in April 1917

“FABIAN WARE GREW CONCERNED AT THE WAY THE ARMY WAS DEALING WITH ITS DEAD”

On 18 November 1918, one week after the armistice had finally brought an end to World War I, George Macdonogh, the Adjutant-General of the British Army, chaired a conference to examine how best to locate and bury the hundreds of thousands of war dead. One measure agreed at the meeting was to divide the Western Front into sectors: the Canadians would be responsible for searching the Albert/Courcelette area and Vimy Ridge; the Australians for Pozières and Villers-Bretonneux; the French for the Aisne/Marne battleground of 1914; and the British would take charge of the rest.

It would be grisly work, stated Macdonogh, so volunteers would be paid an extra two shillings and six pence a day. The exhumation companies, who with the customary dark humour of the British Tommy dubbed themselves ‘Travelling Garden Parties’, were composed of squads of 32 men each. Their tools were “two pairs of rubber gloves, two shovels, stakes to mark the location of graves found, canvas and rope

to tie up remains, stretchers, cresol [a poisonous and colourless compound] and wire cutters.”

The men who volunteered for the exhumation companies had all fought in the trenches, so they knew the tell-tale signs of where bodies may be found. They looked for grass that had turned slightly blue indicating a body underneath, holes in the ground made by rats digging out a bone, or the butt of a rifle just visible in the mud. When they located a corpse, the men retrieved the identity discs and personnel effects, then placed the remains on a canvas sheet soaked in cresol.

“Working in the fields digging up the bodies, a very unpleasant job,” wrote Australian Private William McBeath in his diary on 15 April 1919. Two days

later, he described how his work was interrupted by an unwelcome visitor: “Working in cemetery. An English lady came over to see her son’s grave, found him lying in a bag and fainted.”

The English poet and writer John Masefield, who had worked as an orderly in a field hospital in France, believed the work of the exhumation companies would prove futile. “The places where they lie will be forgotten or changed,” he wrote in his book *The Battle of the Somme*. “Green things will grow, or have already grown, over their graves. It may be that all these dead will some day be removed to a national graveyard.”

But Masefield’s scepticism was misplaced, for he had not reckoned on the efforts of one of the unsung heroes of World War I, Fabian Ware. More than any other person, he ensured that a century after “the war to end all wars”, the graves of the fallen would remain immaculate and honoured.

ONE MAN’S WAR

The Bristol-born Ware was 45 when the war began. His professional life hitherto had been varied, including a stint as an educational administrator in South Africa, a spell editing *The Morning Post* newspaper and, in 1914, a post as the special commissioner to the Rio Tinto mining company.

He was desperate to do his bit for the war effort, but he was too old to fight. Undeterred, he used his contacts to travel to France as the head of a mobile unit of the British Red Cross. Along with a band of volunteers, men in possession of automobiles, he drove around the



ABOVE: Sir Fabian Ware kept up his tireless work through and beyond World War II

LEFT: One of the ‘Travelling Garden Parties’ in 1922



LEFT: Many bodies were left where they fell and quickly lost in no man's land, such as here in the destroyed forests of Alsace-Lorraine

BELOW: One of the exhumation companies searching for remains in 1919

RIGHT: The Graves Registration Commission kept countless records

COMPREHENSIVE REPORT
GRAVES REGISTRATION REPORT FORM
Gordon & VILLERS BRITISH ARMY
REPORT No. 24
SCHEDULE No. 44/5
3rd A.S. No. 27/51
PLACE OF BURIAL
ORIGINAL CORNER N.C.
Map Reference: Map ref. 603.5.5.5.5.
The following are buried here:— Cancels reports as stated on 1/5

Regiment	No.	Name	Rank	Date of Death	Grave Number	Plot, Row and Grave
66/ A.L.F.	2524	McKENZIE	PTE R.C.	3.4.18	10	
"	2643	GATO	PTE R.C.	"	19	
25/ "	2011	TAYLOR	L/C Y	5.7.18	20	
25/ "	7007	McKENZIE	PTE R.C.	17.7.18	21	
25/ "	160	LAMBON	"	"	22	
25/ "	2547	THAFF	" A	"	23	
25/ "	336	VICKERS	" E.S.	4.7.18	24	
25/ "	3613	DOONEY	" A.O.H.	"	25	
25/ "	4193	NOVILLE	" A.E.	"	26	

(No bodies found with Crosses No's 1 to 26).
Special Cases entered in—
2/51/5 R.E. 40001 SQUIRES PTE E.S. 24.5.18
Inscribed: "Believed to be buried in this Cemetery".
Continued on Schedule 47/c.



northern French countryside collecting the wounded at a time when the war had yet to develop into static trench warfare. As Ware went about his work, he grew increasingly concerned at the way the army was dealing with its dead. Soldiers would be buried where they fell in shallow graves and with a rudimentary wooden cross, if even that. There was no attempt to log the burials and Ware believed the graves would be destroyed in future fighting.

So in October 1914, he persuaded, with the support of the Red Cross, the army to allow his unit to expand its remit. They would not only collect the wounded, but keep an official register of the location of every grave, placing a permanent marker on the spot. It hadn't been difficult to win over the military. The war was evidently not going to be the short all-over-by-Christmas affair everyone had initially believed and hoped, but would last months, even years, and public opinion was becoming more critical as the casualties mounted.

Before the 20th century, the British had attached little importance to honouring their fallen soldiers, with most being buried in mass graves and only the social elite and wealthiest accorded individual recognition. This had caused anger and distress in the Second Boer War (1899-1902) and the army acknowledged that it would be beneficial for morale if more humane methods were introduced.

In March 1915, Ware's unit – now comprising 121 vehicles – was rechristened the Graves Registration Commission. *The Times* ran a piece on their work the following month, which was no doubt intended as a fillip for worried families. "The first of these mobile units was formed in September, and has since been attached to the French Cavalry Division," commented the article. "Members of this unit have rendered excellent services in searching for the graves of British soldiers. In many cases the graves are marked by

A SOLDIER'S IDENTITY

Perhaps one of Sir Fabian Ware's most important innovations was the double identity disc. Made of compressed fibre – which was also used during World War II – they became standard issue in September 1916, replacing the thin aluminium dog tags that had been in use since in 1907, but had become harder to produce due to stocks of aluminium running low. The durable discs were red and green, and each carried the same information: the soldier's name, number, rank and religion. The circular red tag could be retrieved by cutting its short string, leaving the eight-sided green tag on the body. So if a body was found with only the green, it meant that the death had already been reported. The details on it could then be used to prepare a grave marker.



ABOVE: The aluminium identity disc of Royal Navy sailor William Henry Spowart

RIGHT: A World War II version of Ware's red and green dog tags



KIPLING FINDS THE RIGHT WORDS

When the Commission needed suitably respectful and timeless inscriptions for the cemeteries and memorials, they turned to famous writer Rudyard Kipling. Some, like Tory MP Hugh Cecil, objected as he was “not a known religious man”, but Kipling had plenty of emotional attachment to the project. His only son, John, had died at the Battle of Loos in 1915 and had no known grave. For the Stones of Remembrance in each cemetery, he chose the biblical words ‘Their Name Liveth For Evermore’ and headstones of the unknown were inscribed with ‘A Soldier of the Great War – Known Unto God’. He also put forward ‘The Glorious Dead’ for the Cenotaph. The Commission was accused by newspapers and relatives in 1920 of being bureaucratic and cruel for refusing personalised headstones, to which Kipling retorted: “I wish some of the people who are making this trouble realised how more than fortunate

they are to have a name on a headstone in a named place.” He died in 1936, but his son’s grave was not identified until 1992.

BELOW: Tyne Cot cemetery in Belgium. More than 70 per cent of the nearly 12,000 buried there remain unidentified

LEFT: Lieutenant John Kipling died aged 18



DID YOU KNOW?

The two largest memorials to the missing are at Thiepval, France, which lists 72,336 soldiers – most of whom died at the Somme – and the Menin Gate, Belgium, on which are inscribed the names of 54,608 soldiers.

More than 100,000 bodies were unidentified or never recovered from the Passchendaele battlefields



French Minister of War Joseph Gallieni was brought out of retirement in 1914, before assisting Fabian Ware’s work

wooden crosses, upon which, however, such evidence of identity as could be traced had been often only pencilled.

To these crosses metal plates are now being fixed, and records are being kept, so that the graves may be easily identified after the war.”

By now, the nature of the fighting on the Western Front had changed. It was no longer the fast, fluid conflict of the early autumn of 1914. The protagonists had dug in, constructing a complex trench system that stretched from Switzerland to the

Channel. Heavy artillery attempted to blast the enemy out of their fortifications and when, in 1915, the infantry tried to seize trenches with the aid of poison gas – at the Second Battle of Ypres and Loos – the numbers of casualties were reaching appalling heights.

Ware and his unit registered some 27,000 graves that year, which prompted General Douglas Haig, then a corps commander and later the commander of the British and Commonwealth Armies, to remark that their work has “an extraordinary moral value to the troops as well as to the relatives and friends of the dead at home”. In recognition of their role, the Graves Registration Commission was transferred from the Red Cross to the army and, on Ware’s insistence, a principle of ‘equality of treatment’ was agreed. For the first time, the dead would not be treated differently according to their rank, social status or wealth, meaning that every fallen soldier

was to be honoured in the same way. What’s more, there would be no repatriation of bodies.

France facilitated this policy in December by “ceding in perpetuity land for Allied graves in France”, as reported in *The Times*. The paper also noted that Ware had been part of an official British Army delegation that called upon General Joseph Gallieni, Minister of War, at Christmas to express the “sincere thanks” of the nation.

A National Committee for the Care of Soldiers’ Graves was established in early 1916, with the Prince of Wales as its president and Ware a committee member. By this point, the Graves Registration Commission had grown to an organisation employing 700 staff, a sombre testament to the scale of the task they had faced in the first 18 months of the war. Little did Ware know, however, as he moved his office to London in May, that the slaughter had only just begun. The Battles of the Somme, Verdun and Passchendaele cost the lives of hundreds of thousands of Allied soldiers – many blown to bits, drowned in mud or left to rot in no man’s land.

HONOURING THE DEAD

There was only so much that could be accomplished while the fighting continued. When the guns finally fell silent on 11 November 1918, Ware’s work began in earnest. He was now a Major General and vice-chairman of the Imperial War Graves Commission (rechristened the Commonwealth War Graves Commission in 1960). It had

been granted a Royal Charter in May 1917 and the Prince of Wales appointed the inaugural president.

Ware was faced with a staggering list of 500,000 missing soldiers, nearly the same figure as those men with a grave. His first task was to start the search for remains, while at the same time beginning the long, complex and sensitive task of how best to honour the fallen. The War Graves Commission had discussed the issue in its first meeting in November 1917, at which Sir Frederic Kenyon, then Director of the British Museum, accepted an invitation to act as architectural advisor. Answering to him were four principal architects: Sir Edwin Lutyens, Reginald Blomfield, Herbert Baker and Charles Holden.

Kenyon spent that winter visiting the Western Front and in January 1918 he wrote a report in which he stated: "The general appearance of a British cemetery will be that of an enclosure with plots of grass or flowers (or both) separated by paths of varying size, and set with orderly rows of headstones, uniform in height and width."

There would be no distinction in death between officers and their men. An aristocrat might lie next to a miner, a Muslim next to a Catholic, an Englishman next to an Indian, and their headstones would be identical save for the inscription on each giving the soldier's name, rank, regiment and date of death. It was agreed that families could choose a personal inscription at the foot of the headstone, although it

was not to exceed 66 letters, and each grave would bear a Christian cross unless requested otherwise. The Star of David was engraved on headstones of Jewish soldiers and in each cemetery there would be a Cross of Sacrifice and a Stone of Remembrance, made from Portland limestone wherever possible.

This policy didn't meet with universal approval. In 1919, a petition was handed to the government, having been backed by sections of the press, demanding that "relatives of those who fell in the war should be allowed to erect monuments of their own choosing over the graves". On the eve of the House of Commons discussing the motion in April 1920, Sir George Perley, High Commissioner for Canada, wrote to the Chairman of the Imperial War Graves Commission, Winston Churchill, warning that "this motion seems to me to strike directly at the root of the principle of equality of treatment of war graves".

Churchill agreed, as did the majority of the House, and in throwing out the motion, he said: "There is no reason why, in periods as remote from our own as we ourselves are from the Tudors, the graveyards in France ... shall not remain an abiding and supreme memorial".

While the architects, accountants and administrators worked – managing to keep to the original estimate of £10 per grave – it was left to the exhumation companies to locate the dead. None would ever forget the horror of their task. "For the first week or two I could



Ibrahim Jaradah was given an MBE for his six decades of work

THE COMMISSION'S WORK TODAY

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission (CWGC) has responsibility for the graves of nearly 1.7 million servicemen and women killed during the two World Wars. In total, there are 23,000 locations across more than 150 countries, with the largest cemetery being in Tyne Cot, Belgium (almost 12,000 burials) and the smallest in Ocracoke Island, US, where four British sailors killed in 1942 are buried.

While the CWGC holds historical workshops at home and abroad to increase awareness of its work and the sacrifice of the men and women it honours, it also continues to bury the dead. In August 2018, four Canadian soldiers were laid to rest in Loos British Cemetery in France. Their remains had been discovered during a munitions clearing process in 2010 and 2011. After years of historical, genealogical, anthropological and DNA analysis, the quartet – all killed during the Battle of Hill 70 in 1917 – had been identified. Such diligence extends to the team of more than 850 CWGC gardeners who work to keep the cemeteries so immaculate. Among them, until his death in 2017, was Ibrahim Jaradah, who tended the Gaza War Cemetery in Palestine for 60 years.

"THERE WOULD BE NO DISTINCTION BETWEEN OFFICERS AND THEIR MEN"



Commission staff take a break from their grisly work in the canteen of a base camp in St Omer, France

Ware and his wife stand by a Commission car carrying Sir Frederic Kenyon, in Belgium to plan the cemetery designs





DID YOU KNOW?

Personal headstone inscriptions were initially charged at three and a half pence per letter, but the fee was later made voluntary after an outcry.

Walter John Warrell-Bowring is buried near Amiens, France

scarcely endure the experiences we met with," recalled Private McCauley. "Often have I picked up the remains of a fine brave man on a shovel. Just a little heap of bones and maggots to be carried to the common burial place... I shuddered as my hands, covered in soft flesh and slime, moved about in search of the [identity] disc."

The bulk of the work would not be completed until 1937. By then, there were nearly 1,000 cemeteries across France and Belgium, containing some 600,000 headstones and 18 larger memorials to the missing. That same year, the Duke of Gloucester succeeded the Prince of Wales as president of the Commission. In his inaugural speech, he described the "great privilege" of his appointment and added: "I have heard, on many occasions, of the comfort which the

work of the Commission has brought to relatives overseas as well as at home."

One of those headstones marked the grave of 21-year-old Second Lieutenant Walter John Warrell-Bowring, who was killed on 29 July 1916 and buried in the Aveluy Communal Cemetery Extension on the Somme. His parents chose an inscription that was also a plea: "Let those that come after see to it that his name is not forgotten."

Through the ongoing efforts of the Commission, a century after the end of World War I that plea is still being answered. 📌

GET HOOKED

BOOK

A Guide to the Commonwealth War Graves Commission (Third Millennium, 2018), an illustrated exploration of CWGC sites

REMEMBERING THE FALLEN AROUND THE WORLD



THANBYUZAYAT WAR CEMETERY

The cemetery in the rugged foothills of Myanmar (formerly Burma) is a testament to the brutality experienced by Allied POWs under Japanese rule. It contains the graves of 3,149 Commonwealth and 621 Dutch men who died building the notorious Burma-Siam railway.



KOHIMA WAR CEMETERY

With more than 1,400 British and Indian graves, this cemetery in Nagaland stands on the scene of bloody fighting in the spring of 1944 when Japan tried to invade India. Inscribed on the memorial to the dead is: "When you go home/Tell them of us and say/For your tomorrow/We gave our today."



BEACH CEMETERY, GALLIPOLI

To the ANZAC troops (Australian and New Zealand Army Corps), the beach below the cliffs at Gallipoli, Turkey, would become known as 'Hell Spit'. At Beach Cemetery, nearly 400 bodies now lie near the sea from which they had come ashore on 25 April 1915.



LONDON CEMETERY, SOMME

There are few places better to remember the horrors of World War I, and bear witness to the unlearned lessons of the 20th century, than the Somme. Nearly 4,000 from that war are buried here, plus 165 from World War II, mostly men from the Highland Division killed in 1940.



DEVONSHIRE CEMETERY

Also on the Western Front, this cemetery contains 163 graves, the majority from the regiment after whom it is named. They were killed on 1 July 1916, the first day of the Battle of the Somme. A memorial at the entrance reads: "The Devonshires held this trench; the Devonshires hold it still."



GRAVE ISLAND CEMETERY

One of the most inaccessible cemeteries is on Grave Island, a tiny coral off the coast of Zanzibar. It takes 20 minutes by boat to reach the island, and visitors have to wade ashore. The 24 graves there are for sailors from HMS *Pegasus*, killed in action on 20 September 1914.

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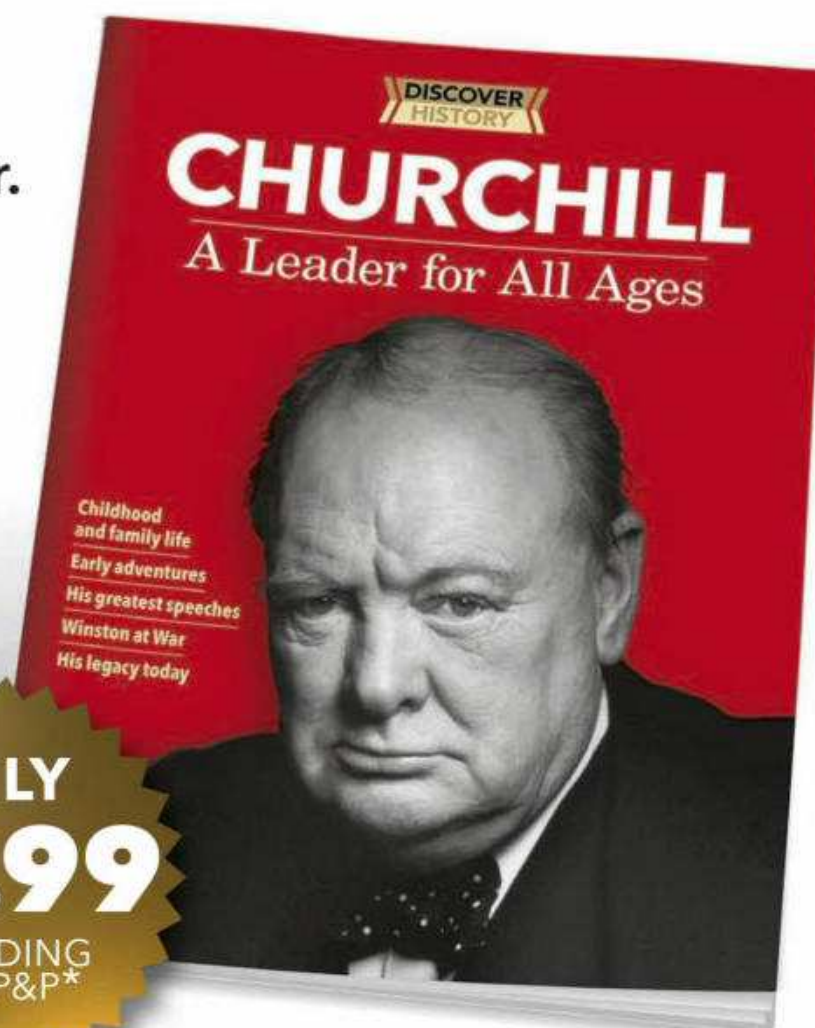
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AT A GLANCE

Born in Los Angeles on 1 June 1926 as Norma Jeane Mortenson, the girl who would become one of the brightest stars of the silver screen had a troubled childhood. With her mother in and out of psychiatric hospitals, Norma drifted between foster homes, eventually ending up in an orphanage. Yet even then, she was enthralled by the movies

MARILYN MONROE

One of Hollywood's greats, Marilyn Monroe yearned to be seen as more than the 'dumb blonde' she often played

REX/SHUTTERSTOCK



DISCOVERED

While working in a munitions factory during World War II, Norma was photographed by David Conover, who had been tasked with shooting morale-boosting pictures

**“I NEVER
WANTED TO
BE MARILYN
- IT JUST
HAPPENED”**

MONROE IN VANITY FAIR, 1960



PHOTOGENIC

Her hourglass figure and natural beauty caught the eye of photographers and before long Norma was gracing the covers of magazines



A STAR IS BORN

Beloved as a pin-up model, her rise to fame saw her dye her auburn locks to her trademark blonde



MOVIE MAGIC

Norma signed her first film contract with 20th Century Fox in 1946. It was then she started using a new name: Marilyn Monroe

MARILYN'S MEN

Controlling husbands and failed pregnancies led to an unhappy string of marriages

IN PICTURES



MARRIAGE OF CONVENIENCE

To avoid a return to the orphanage, 16-year-old Norma married James Dougherty. He disapproved of her modelling and they divorced in 1946

LOVED UP

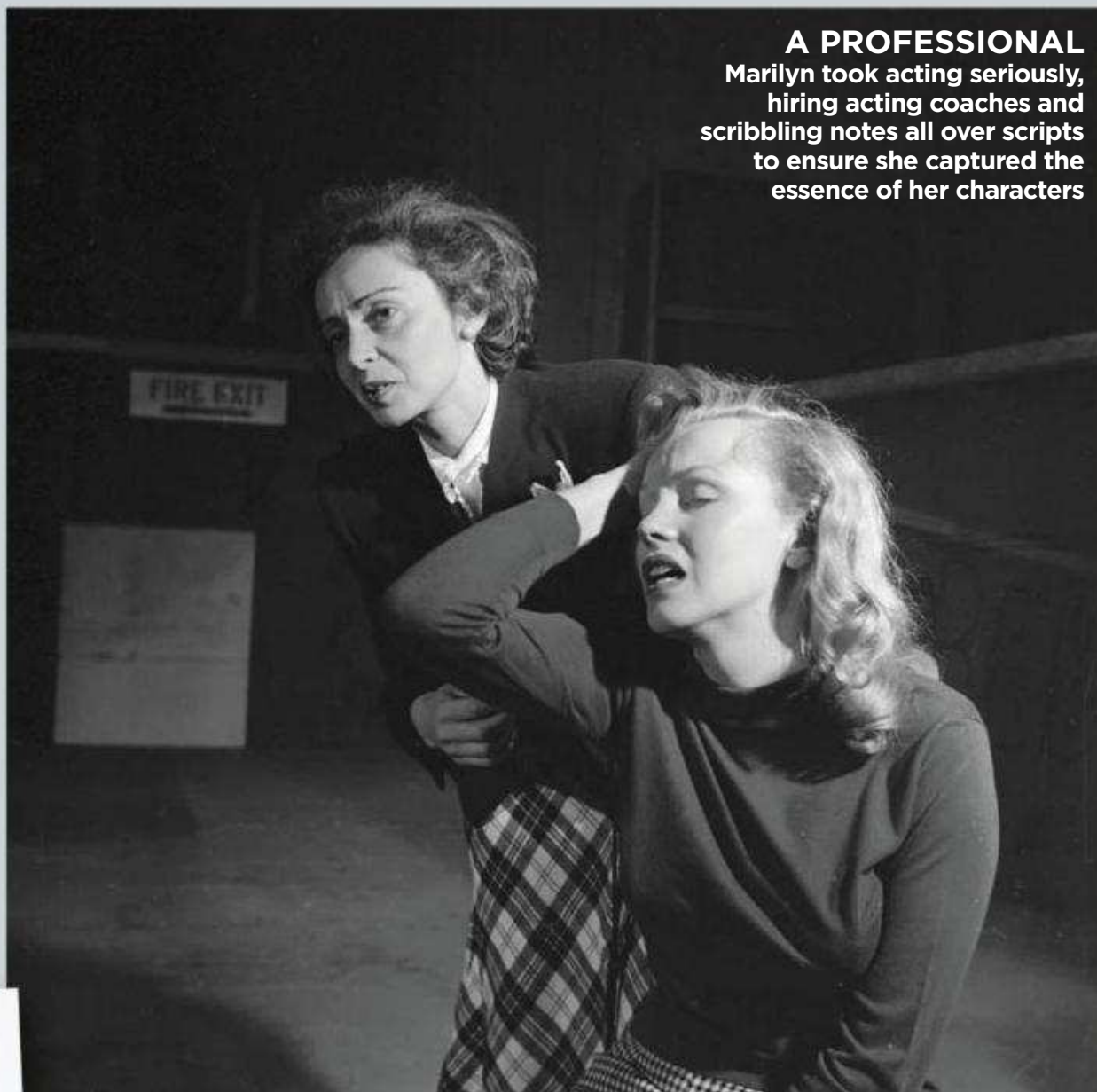
New York Yankees player Joe DiMaggio married Marilyn in 1954. He never approved of the provocative image that she had cultivated and wanted control over the roles she took. Filing for divorce nine months after they married, they remained friends - and he sent roses to her grave every week until his death

DAILY NEWS
NEW YORK'S PICTURE NEWSPAPER
4¢

MARILYN WEDS JOE DIMAGGIO



DiMaggio Signs With a New Manager. Joe DiMaggio signs a deal with the legendary Marilyn Monroe agent before leaving San Francisco City Hall where they were married yesterday. Single waiting of former Yankee star and movie actress done early and quickly.



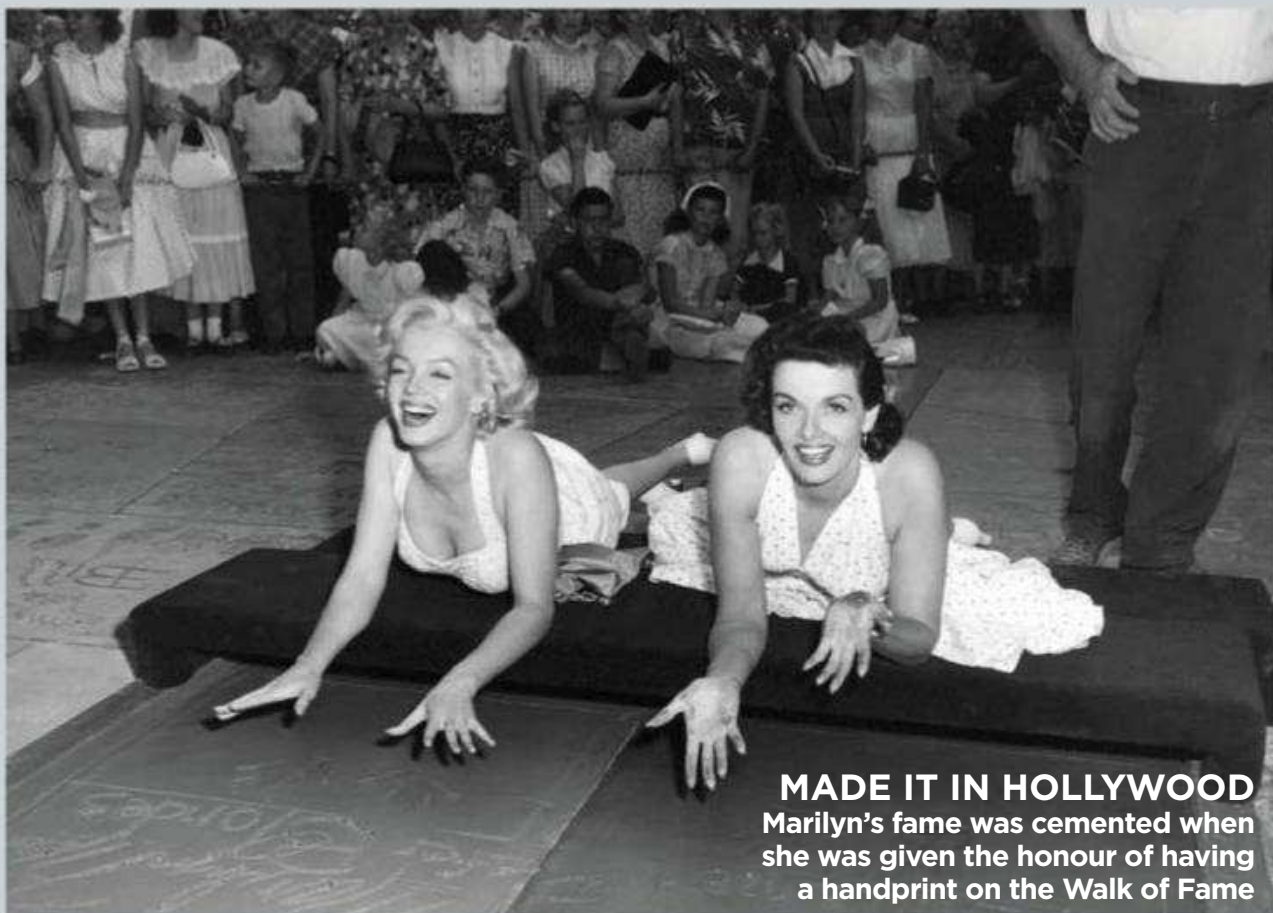
A PROFESSIONAL
Marilyn took acting seriously, hiring acting coaches and scribbling notes all over scripts to ensure she captured the essence of her characters

EVERYONE'S FAVOURITE
After her breakthrough role as a gangster's moll in 1950 film *Asphalt Jungle*, the fan mail started flooding in



UNUSUAL MATCH

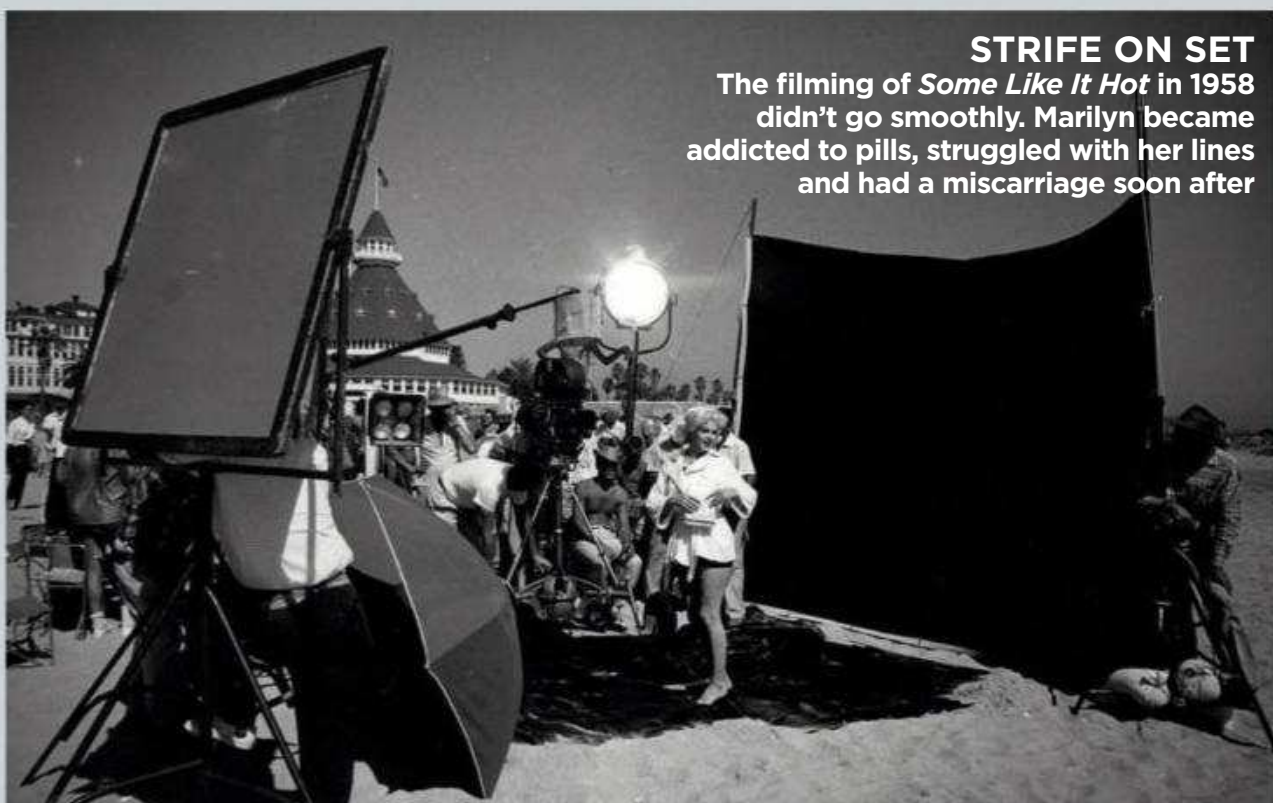
In 1956, Marilyn married playwright Arthur Miller to the horror of Hollywood - he was suspected of having communist ties. They divorced in 1961



MADE IT IN HOLLYWOOD
Marilyn's fame was cemented when she was given the honour of having a handprint on the Walk of Fame



THAT MOMENT
Eager crowds gathered to watch this iconic scene from *The Seven Year Itch* (1955) being filmed in New York



STRIFE ON SET
The filming of *Some Like It Hot* in 1958 didn't go smoothly. Marilyn became addicted to pills, struggled with her lines and had a miscarriage soon after

HER BIG MOVIES

The glittering film roles that defined Marilyn's career



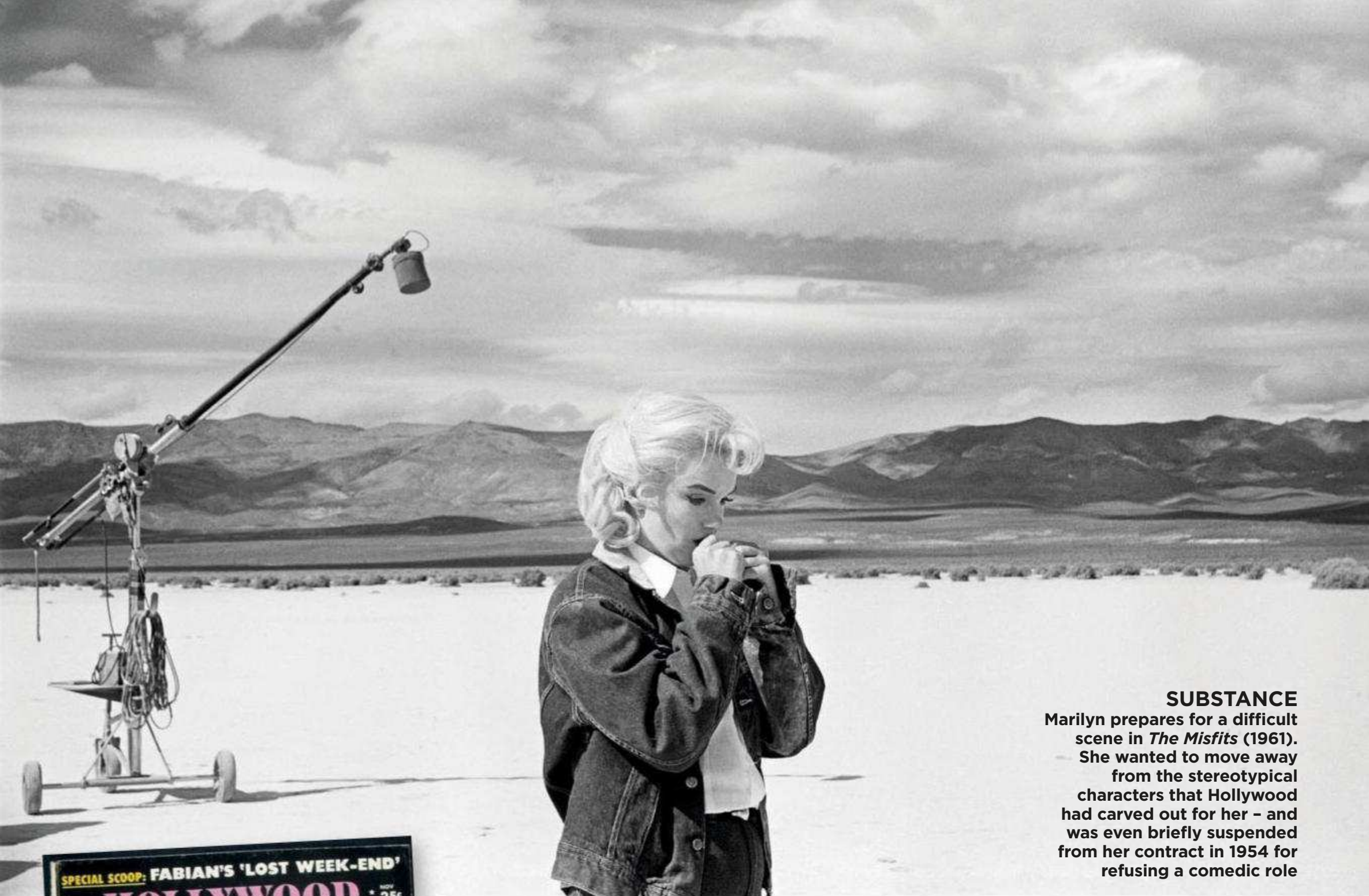
ASPHALT JUNGLE, 1950
This film noir about a jewel robbery only featured Marilyn for a few minutes, yet this was enough for critics to notice her as more than a pretty face



GENTLEMEN PREFER BLONDES, 1953
The comedy established Marilyn's on-screen persona, and her rendition of *Diamond's Are a Girl's Best Friend* was lauded by reviewers

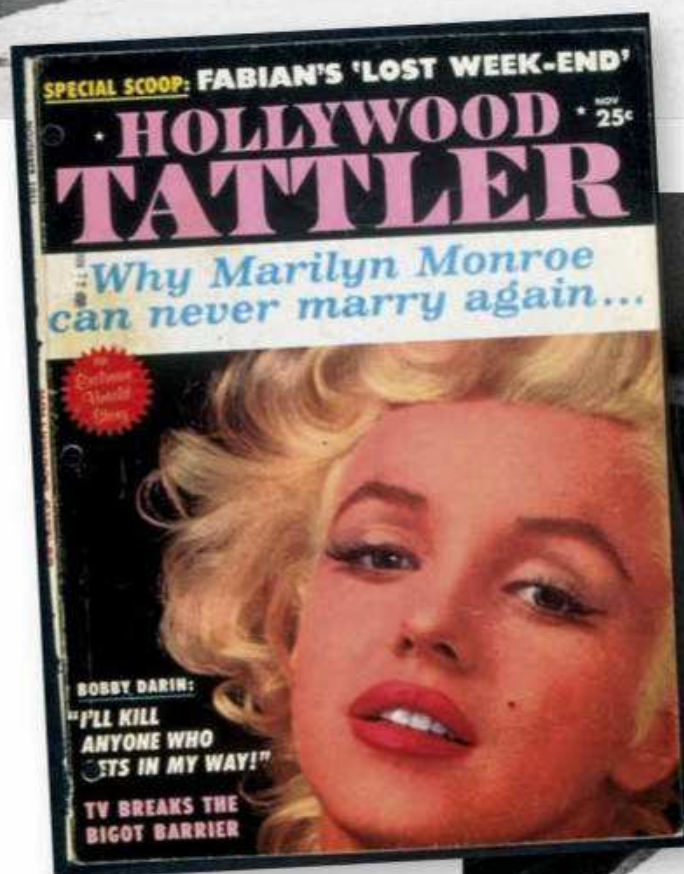


THE MISFITS, 1961
Marilyn's last complete film was also the swansong for co-star Clark Gable. He died in November 1960, 12 days after filming of this cowboy drama wrapped



SUBSTANCE

Marilyn prepares for a difficult scene in *The Misfits* (1961). She wanted to move away from the stereotypical characters that Hollywood had carved out for her – and was even briefly suspended from her contract in 1954 for refusing a comedic role

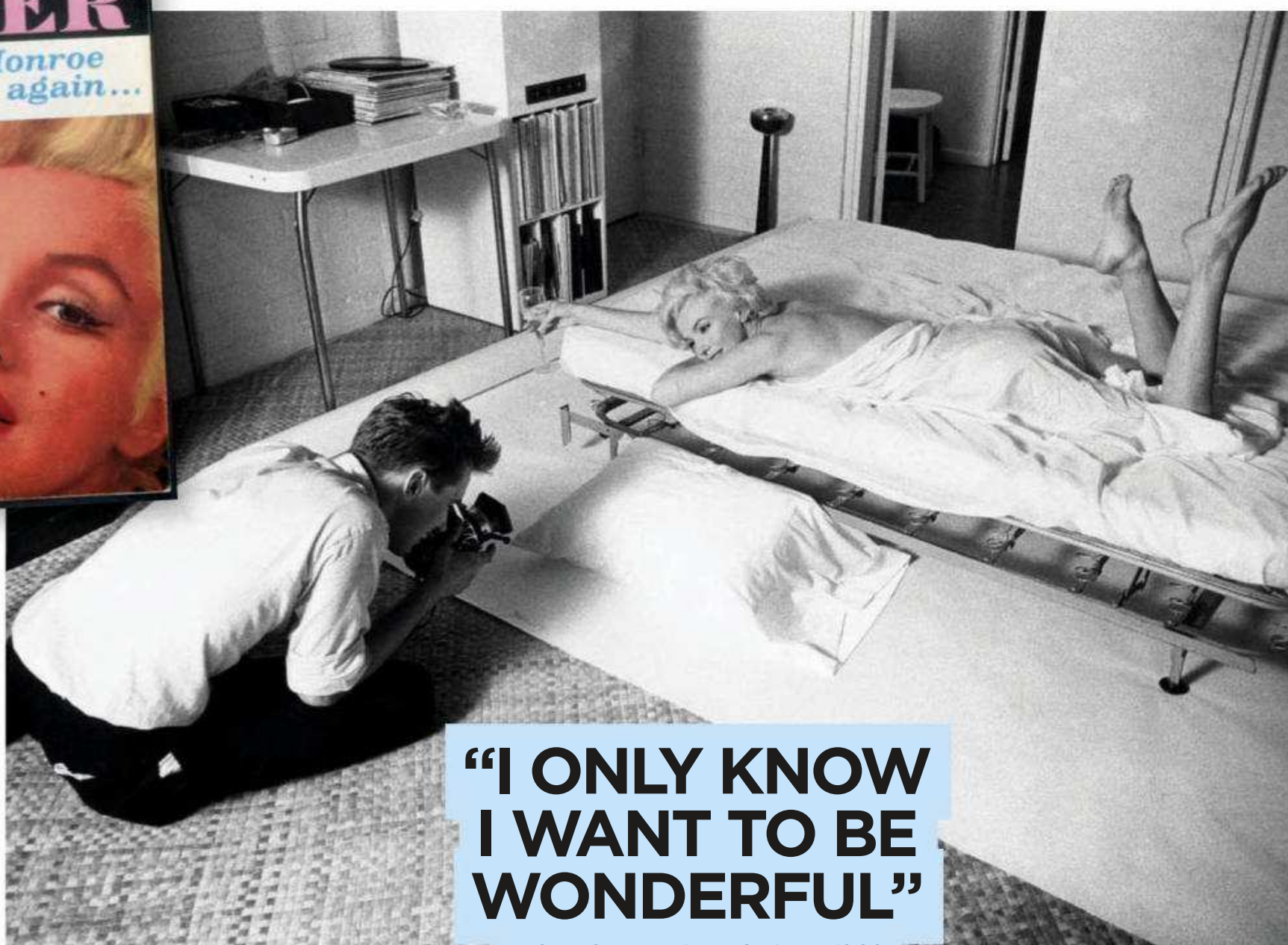


IN THE SPOTLIGHT

Marilyn was constantly dogged by rumours and speculation about her personal life

PERFECTION

As a Hollywood sex symbol, image was everything, but it came at a price: she was encouraged to have cosmetic surgery on her nose and chin



**“I ONLY KNOW
I WANT TO BE
WONDERFUL”**

MONROE IN MARIE CLAIRE, 1960

RUMOURS

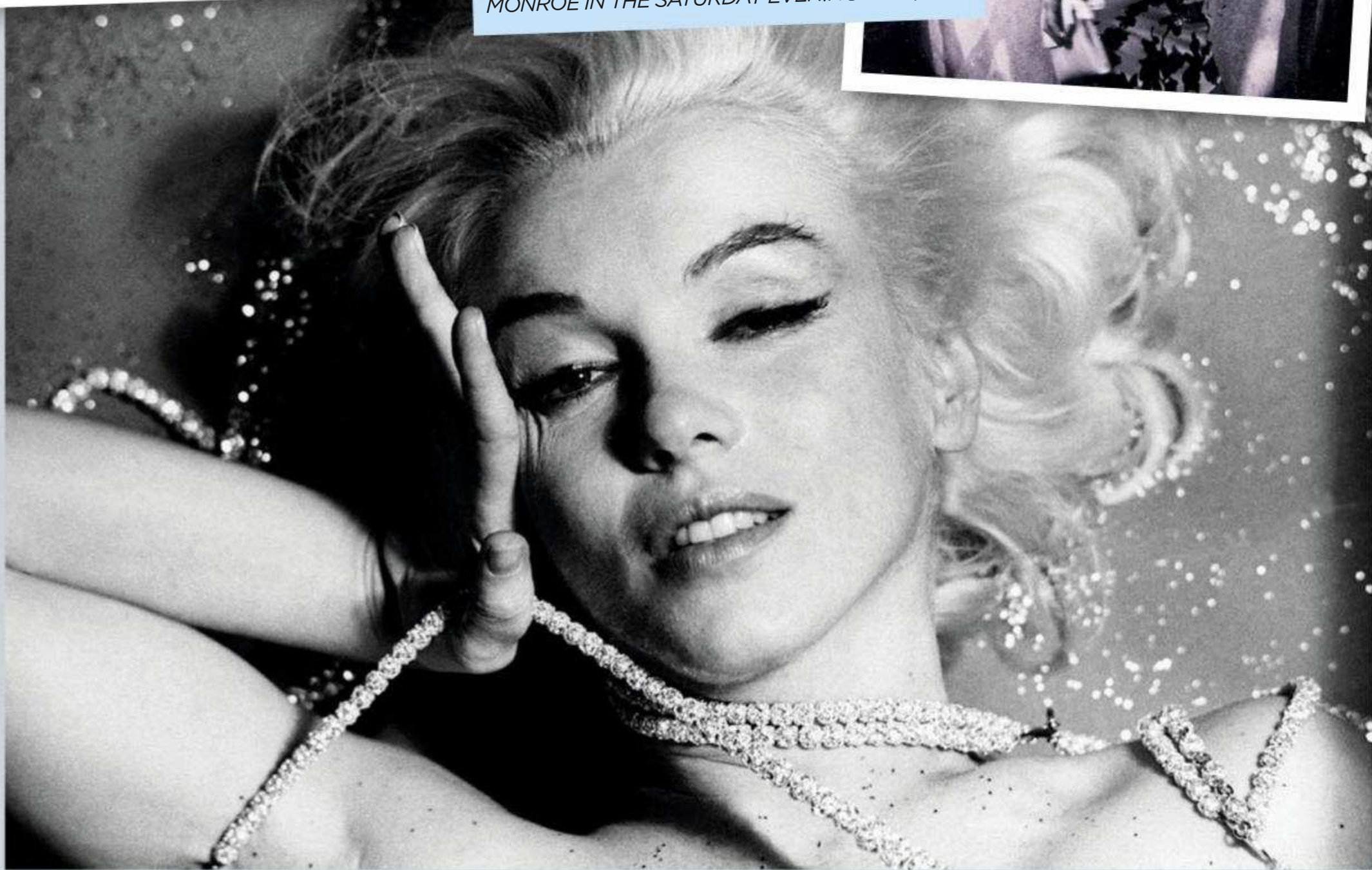
Speculation about the nature of Marilyn's relationship with John F Kennedy increased after her sultry performance of *Happy Birthday* at the US President's birthday gala in 1962

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Frequent absences from set saw Marilyn fired from *Something's Got to Give*. She was quickly rehired, but the film was abandoned after she died

"I'VE SPENT MOST OF MY LIFE RUNNING AWAY FROM MYSELF"

MONROE IN THE SATURDAY EVENING POST, 1956



IMMORTAL

Marilyn's untimely death and chaotic personal life continue to cloud how she is remembered. She died on 5 August 1962 - just weeks after this final photoshoot - after a probable suicidal overdose, though murder theories persist

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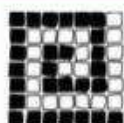


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Image by Angela Ithyle



THE AMERICAN REVOLUTIONARY WAR



BIRTH OF A SUPERPOWER

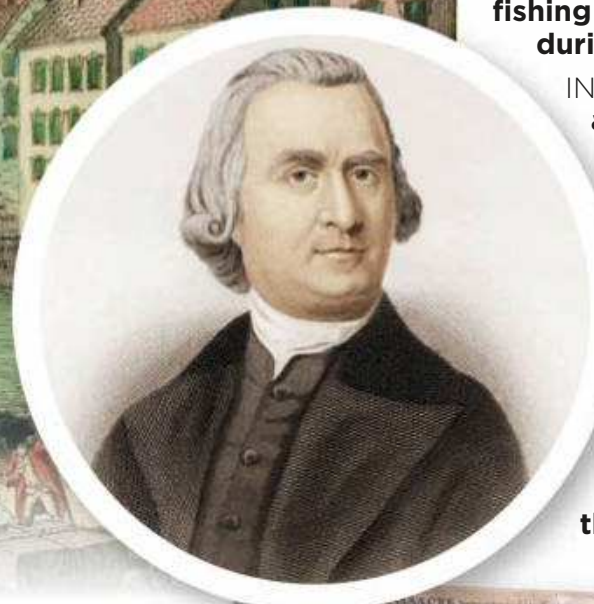
What began as a tax dispute between Britain and its 13 North American colonies rapidly blossomed into an eight-year war that involved all the major European powers and led to the formation of the United States. **Jonny Wilkes** guides us through this era-defining conflict in five key moments



LEFT: Boston was a lively fishing and shipping port during the colonial era

INSET: Sam Adams, a Boston native, argued that it was pointless for the colonies to be governed from thousands of leagues away

BELOW: The Boston Massacre served as the perfect anti-British propaganda for the Patriots



BOSTON: BIRTHPLACE OF THE REVOLUTION

Taxation, tea and trade combined to create the tinder for war

The events, dates, names and personalities of the American Revolutionary War are remembered not as a matter of history in the US, but as the identity of the country and its people. Over eight years, the North American colonies broke away from Britain and built a new nation on the ideals of life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. Yet when war began in 1775, independence was far from the overarching intention.

In 1763, Britain emerged victorious from a war against France – fought partly on American soil side-by-side with the colonists – with territorial gains but a tremendous debt. Britain

looked to the 13 colonies of North America for money, taking the unprecedented action of imposing taxes, demanding exclusivity of trade and forbidding westward settlement into Native American lands. This ignited resentment amongst the colonists, who saw taxes as an attack on their rights as subjects of the British Crown, arguing that they had no obligation to pay a parliament in which they had no voice. “No taxation without representation,” became their rallying cry.

The heartland of resistance was Boston, capital of Massachusetts: a flourishing city of merchants, manufacturers and entrepreneurs. While their loyalty to the Crown was not in doubt, Bostonians were reliant on trade and so



vociferously opposed the Stamp Act, which essentially taxed all documents, and the indirect taxes placed on imported goods like glass, lead, paints, paper and tea by the Townshend Acts.

Boycotts were organised, assemblies held, petitions signed, propaganda distributed and acts of agitation, even violence against officials, carried out. And at the centre was a clandestine group of radicals, the Sons of Liberty. Among them were future Founding Fathers John Adams and John Hancock, but perhaps the most influential firebrand was Samuel Adams, condemned in Britain as the most dangerous man in Massachusetts.

Opposition to taxation began to turn to revolutionary zeal, especially after the Boston Massacre of 5 March 1770, when British troops fired into an angry crowd, resulting in five deaths. Then, in the wake of the Boston Tea Party, Britain passed the so-called Intolerable Acts. These punitive measures included the closure of the city harbour and appointed General Thomas Gage, commander of British forces in North America, as military governor of Massachusetts. Boston was a powder keg, ready to set the colonies ablaze.

THE BOSTON TEA PARTY

With boycotts on taxed tea and the drink being smuggled by the Dutch, the British passed the Tea Act in 1773, granting the East India Company a monopoly. The colonists' response came on the night of 16 December. Around 60 Sons of Liberty, some disguised as Native Americans, boarded three ships in Boston Harbour and dumped 342 chests of tea into the water. They harmed no one – in fact, they cleaned up before leaving – but the British retaliated with a harsh set of laws. They hoped to quash a rebellion before it started. Instead, they emboldened the colonists.



The 342 chests of tea had a value in excess of \$1 million in today's money



Superior arms and tactics proved useless to the outnumbered Redcoats at Concord

2

THE SHOT HEARD ROUND THE WORLD

A mission to confiscate an illicit cache of small arms went awry in the worst possible way

The anti-British Patriots went on the offensive: taking control of local government in Massachusetts, training militias and stockpiling munitions. Yet around one-third of colonists, known as Loyalists or Tories, continued to support the Crown.

In early 1775, the British Parliament declared Massachusetts in a state of rebellion and ordered Gage, in command of 4,000 men, to disarm the militias. Hoping to avoid a “bloody crisis”, he aimed to take the fight from the rebels by seizing weapons and gunpowder. On hearing of a large store in Concord, 20 miles from Boston, he dispatched a force in the early hours of 19 April.

They lost the element of surprise when someone – possibly Gage’s American wife – let the Patriots know of the raid. Three men, Paul Revere, Samuel Prescott and William Dawes, made midnight rides to warn the militias. A signal had also been planned where lanterns

would be lit in the tower of Boston’s Old North Church, one if the British marched by land and two if they crossed the Charles River. There were two that night. By the time the Redcoats reached Lexington at sunrise, tired and sodden, around 77 armed men were waiting on the village green. Their leader, Captain John Parker, called out: “Stand your ground. Don’t fire unless fired upon, but if they want a war, let it begin here.” After a tense pause, a shot rang out – no one knows who fired – and a brief skirmish ensued, which left eight militiamen dead.

The British continued to Concord only to find few munitions and hundreds of militiamen, with more on the way. The first British soldier was killed, by the immortalised ‘shot heard round the world’, and they began a torturous retreat back to Boston, harassed all the way by hidden snipers. Having lost nearly 300 men, the dwindling and demoralised Redcoat column limped into Boston, which then fell under a siege lasting until March 1776. The war had begun.

CROSSING THE DELAWARE

By the winter of 1776, the retreating American Continental Army was utterly demoralised and suffering from severe shortages. Commander-in-chief George Washington needed a victory before the enlistments ran out at the end of the year to have any hope of keeping the army together. So, on 25 December, he set off to cross back over the ice-strewn Delaware River with around 2,400 men and, the next day, attacked the town of Trenton. The Christmas assault took the defending Hessians, German mercenaries fighting for the British, completely by surprise, and 1,000 were captured. The victory did wonders for morale and allowed Washington to winter knowing that the fight would continue.

9,000

The number of Patriot troops evacuated from the Battle of Long Island on the night of 29 August 1776, without loss of life. George Washington was the last to leave under cover of fog.

EARLY EXCHANGES

BATTLE OF FORT TICONDEROGA

WHEN: 10 May 1775

WHAT: The Green Mountain Boys militia raided the British-held fort at dawn, leading to the capture of the entire garrison.

RESULT: Cannon seized at Ticonderoga helped to end the Siege of Boston

BATTLE OF BUNKER HILL

WHEN: 17 June 1775

WHAT: During the Siege of Boston, a 3,000-strong British force needed three bloody assaults to take a Patriot position. They suffered more than 1,000 casualties.

RESULT: Pyrrhic British victory

BATTLE OF QUEBEC

WHEN: 31 December 1775

WHAT: The colonial invasion of Canada ended when Colonel Benedict Arnold and General Richard Montgomery’s attack with around 1,700 men on the British city of Quebec was repulsed.

RESULT: British victory, Montgomery killed



Montgomery was shot through the head whilst leading from the front

BATTLE OF LONG ISLAND

WHEN: 27 August 1776

WHAT: The largest battle of the war, involving ~30,000 men in total. The British captured or killed 1,300 Patriots, but George Washington pulled off a Dunkirk-like escape with the rest of the Continental Army.

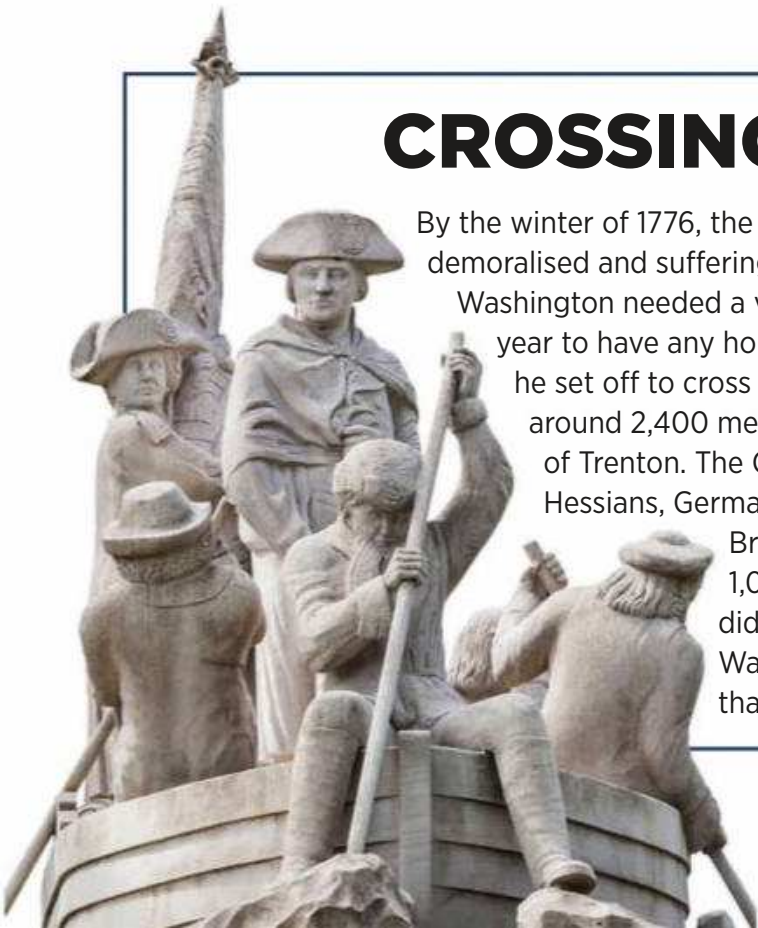
RESULT: British secure New York

BATTLE OF FORT WASHINGTON

WHEN: 16 November 1776

WHAT: Around 3,000 prisoners were taken when the British captured the fort. They took control of Fort Lee across the Hudson River four days later, sending the Continental Army in full retreat.

RESULT: Crushing American defeat



THE CONTINENTAL CONGRESS

The colonies ratified their independence from Britain after a slow start

The war against Britain was not only fought by militias and armies, but also by a collection of statesmen, politicians, lawyers, thinkers, activists and writers. The Continental Congress was the colonies' governing body, responsible for the war effort. It struggled constantly, was slow to make decisions, had no infrastructure and made mistakes – its paper money became so worthless it spawned the phrase “not worth a continental”. But the course of war changed with its greatest success: independence.

The First Continental Congress had convened in September 1774, following the Intolerable Acts. In all, 56 delegates from 12 colonies (British-dependent Georgia was absent) met in

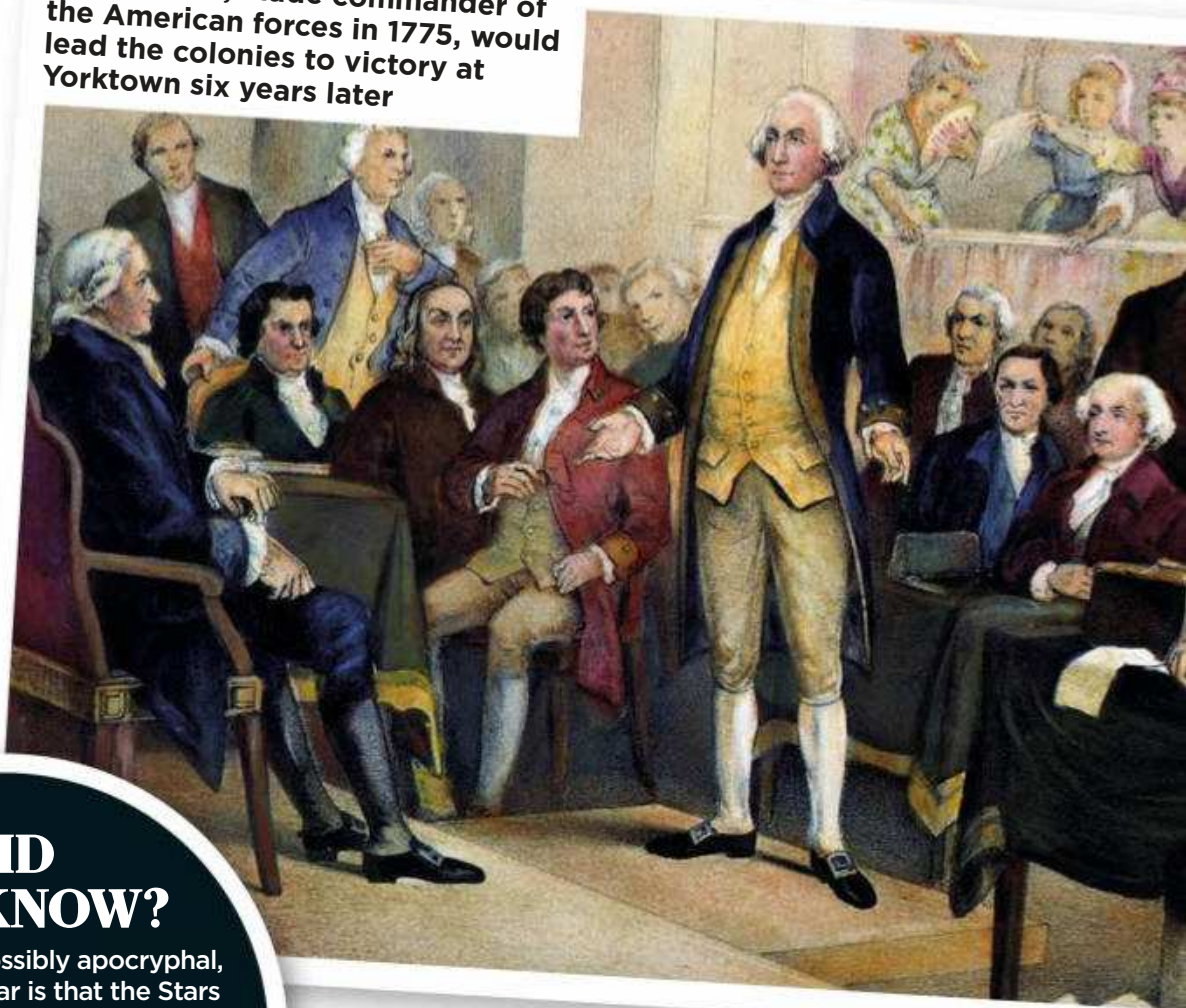
Philadelphia to organise resistance, make their grievances known and declare a trade boycott. Yet they affirmed their loyalty to the Crown, too.

By the time the Second Continental Congress came together at the pre-arranged date in May

DID YOU KNOW?

A famous, but possibly apocryphal, story from the war is that the Stars and Stripes flag of the United States was first sewn by a woman named Betsy Ross after she was visited by George Washington. She supposedly suggested the stars have five points instead of six as they were easier to cut out.

Washington, made commander of the American forces in 1775, would lead the colonies to victory at Yorktown six years later



1775, fighting had broken out. Its members voted to create the Continental Army and appointed as its commander-in-chief a Virginia landowner who had been refused a commission in the British army, George Washington.

Still, it was clear the Congress was not committed to independence. The call only grew louder in the first half of 1776. The sensationally popular pamphleteer Thomas Paine had made a stirring case in a treatise called *Common Sense*, and the violence meted out by the British turned more colonists against them. The Congress also knew independence would open up opportunities of foreign alliances. So, on 2 July, Congress voted in favour of the resolution for independence and two days later, on 4 July, it approved the Declaration of Independence.

Around that time, a 34,000-strong British invasion force landed south of New York, led by brothers General William Howe and Richard, Admiral Lord Howe. In 1777, they launched an operation to cut off the northern colonies of New England. The plan was for General John Burgoyne to march south from Canada to meet Howe's force moving north up the Hudson River. But when Howe left New York, he went by sea and sailed south with the aim of capturing Philadelphia, home of the Congress. He had succeeded by 25 September, but the isolated Burgoyne had to contend with debilitating attacks, including the decisive blow by brilliant commander Benedict Arnold.

In October, Burgoyne had no choice but to surrender at Saratoga. This was a massively significant moment as it persuaded France to join the war. Britain had been fighting a civil war – now it was a global conflict.

THE KING AND US

George III addressed Parliament in 1775 with a confidence that the rebellion in North America would meet a “speedy end”. Instead, he became the “King who lost the colonies” – and when defeat finally came in 1783, he went so far as to draft a notice of abdication.

The Americans branded George a tyrant, which somewhat ignores the parts played by his government and ministers, and the Declaration of Independence included a long list of damning accusations against him. It began: “The history of the present King of Great Britain is a history of repeated injuries and usurpations, all having in direct object the establishment of an absolute Tyranny over these States.”

Royal portraits were reversed or destroyed, his name was stricken from documents, and mock trials, executions and funerals were held. One statue in New York was melted down into thousands of musket balls for the army.



George III was a ravager of coasts and burner of villages, according to the Declaration of Independence

*With 1,458 words and 56 signatures,
the United States of America was born...*



LOST
On the morning of 4 July, a 200 copy Declaration made by printer J. To date, 'Dunlap have been

On the night of 4 July, around 200 copies of the Declaration were made by Philadelphia printer John Dunlap. To date, 26 of these 'Dunlap broadsides' have been found.

The resolution of independence had been put forward on 7 June 1776 by a delegate to the Continental Congress from Virginia, Richard Henry Lee.

A committee of five people was tasked with drafting the Declaration – including Benjamin Franklin and John Adams – but it was mainly written by Thomas Jefferson.



Washington, commander-in-chief of the new Continental Army and later the first President of the United States, didn't sign the declaration: he was in New York, organising the city's defences.



The chief author of the Declaration became the nation's third President. He organised the Louisiana Purchase of 1803, where the US acquired more than 800,000 square miles of territory.



He was known as the 'Penman of the Revolution' due to his essays against the Townshend Acts, yet he didn't sign the Declaration – or support it. He argued that it wasn't the right time for independence.



The only Founding Father who signed all four of the US's major founding documents: the Declaration of Independence, the 1778 Treaty of Alliance with France, the Treaty of Paris and the Constitution.



A lawyer committed to a person's right of counsel, Adams defended British soldiers involved in the Boston Massacre of 1770. He served as Washington's Vice President before taking the office himself.

[illegible]

The Declaration was not actually signed on 4 July, but adopted. It would take weeks for everyone to put their name on the document.

The largest signature on the Declaration belongs to the President of the Continental Congress, John Hancock. To this day, his name is a byword for signature.

[illegible]

REVOLUTIONARIES VS REDCOATS

Britain's early gains were reversed when the other European powers sided with the Patriots

The image of ramshackle bands of gutsy militiamen taking on pristine columns of Redcoats is ingrained in the legacy of the war. Yet whilst the Patriots successfully utilised guerrilla tactics, the two sides generally fought in pitched battles with similar approaches.

The British had clear advantages. Their soldiers were rigorously trained, disciplined and not distracted by thoughts of bringing in the harvest or protecting their lands and families. Their ranks included militias of Loyalists and paid German soldiers, mostly Hessians. Efforts were made to recruit black men – slave and free – and Native Americans too, although many also joined the Patriot cause.

At sea, Britain ruled the waves, which was crucial as it was the sole source of supplies. Yet the British had neither a consistent strategy nor a dominant leader; they struggled in unknown terrain. Once France joined, the British had to split their forces across multiple theatres.

The Patriots were driven by more than duty. They fought on home soil for their very future and the “life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness” of the Declaration of Independence. Tens of thousands of farmers and tradesmen served either in local militias – small, disorderly and with short enlistments, often three months – or the Continental Army. There, soldiers endured dire conditions as supplies ran out, and went without pay.

Things were especially gruesome when, in late 1777, Washington went into winter quarters at Valley Forge

as rations were meagre, clothing insufficient and disease spread. More than 2,000 perished. Yet in that misery, the army stayed together and actually improved due to a training regime under Prussian officer Baron von Steuben.

By 1778, with the war at a stalemate, the British turned their attentions to the southern colonies. An invasion force sailed hoping to be bolstered by Loyalist support in Georgia and the Carolinas, and the Southern Strategy started well with the capture of Savannah. Then, on 12 May 1780, the Americans suffered perhaps their worst defeat – the surrender of Charleston and loss of 5,000 troops as prisoners, nearly all the Continental Army in the south.

The outlook was bleak for Washington. Mutinies had to be put down and his trusted commander, Benedict Arnold, defected. The British, for the moment, had the momentum.



ABOVE: Washington lost 1,500 horses to starvation at Valley Forge

RIGHT: The loss of Charleston was the Patriots' greatest setback of the war



MERCI, MES AMIS

France began secretly supplying the Patriots soon after the outbreak of war, eager for any chance to get one over on the old enemy. Then came the American victory at Saratoga in October 1777, which convinced the French to enter the war.

Their alliance with the Americans was pivotal. With the nascent Continental Navy outclassed, Patriot sea power had been confined to privateering, but the presence of French ships made the British Navy more vulnerable,

something that only increased when Spain and the Netherlands joined the fray.

The Continental Army was reinforced by French soldiers commanded by the Comte de Rochambeau. Another officer, the Marquis de Lafayette, became Washington's aide even before France officially declared war. To this day, he is celebrated as a hero in the US. The Patriots had little hope of winning without France, which ended up more than one billion livres in debt and facing its own revolution.

The Marquis de Lafayette defied the French King to sail for the colonies



DID YOU KNOW?

In 1775, the British governor of Virginia, the Earl of Dunmore, issued a proclamation promising freedom to any slaves who left their owners and joined the British forces. He called the 500 black men who joined him the Ethiopian Regiment.

THE FIGHTERS

How soldiers of the Continental Army compared with the British 'Lobsters'

TRUE COLOURS

Though all British soldiers wore the distinctive bright-red coat, the different colours of the lapels, collars and cuffs showed their regiment.

BESS ON BOTH SIDES

The Land Pattern Musket, known as a Brown Bess, was used by both the British Regulars and Continental Army. It was capable of firing two, maybe three, shots a minute.

NOT SO UNIFORM

Whilst they are often depicted in blue, the Continental Army did not have a standard uniform until 1779. Brown, grey and even red were also used.

FIRE IN THE BELLY

As supplies ran low, soldiers had to survive on little food, sometimes living off 'fire cakes' of baked flour and water.

LOOK SHARP

The flints used by the British were notoriously poor. They would have to be re-sharpened after half a dozen shots, whereas Patriot flints could last ten times as long.

SEEING RED

Around 7,000 British infantry soldiers were in North America at the start of the war - by 1778, around 50,000 had been deployed.

WEIGHED DOWN

A Continental carried his musket or rifle, bayonet, cartridge box, haversack with rations, utensils, wooden water container and personal items. Some militiamen bore tomahawks as well.

FIGHTING NATION

It is thought that over 200,000 men served in the Continental Army or in militias during the entire war, but an individual force rarely exceeded 20,000.

PUT A FOOT WRONG

Rather than the buckled black leather shoes of the officers, the lowly soldier wore a cheaper alternative that could be worn on either foot. Some soldiers had to go periods without any footwear.



1/3

The proportion of the British Army in North America by 1780, down from two-thirds in 1778. Britain increasingly had to spread its forces to combat France's intervention.

5

THE ROAD TO YORKTOWN

The last major land battle took place on the Virginia coast

ABOVE: The Continentals broke the siege of Yorktown by storming two redoubts defending the town

BELOW: Patriot commander Nathanael Greene (right) and British General Charles Cornwallis (left) played a cat-and-mouse game across the Carolinas



The man in charge of the Southern Strategy was General Charles Cornwallis. Despite far fewer Loyalists flocking to the British cause than hoped, he led around 10,000 men, most behind the barricades of Savannah and Charleston, and demolished a force nearly double the size of his own at the Battle of Camden on 16 August 1780.

Washington needed a commander in the south to match Cornwallis, and he found one in Nathanael Greene. While the British strove for one decisive victory, he understood how the war could be won: "We fight, we get beat, rise and fight again. We never have to win a battle to win the war. The side that ultimately gets support of the people will prevail."

Under Greene's auspices, the militia inflicted a crushing defeat on 1,000 Loyalists at the Battle of Kings Mountain on 7 October, and the Patriots followed it in early 1781 when a splinter force led by Daniel Morgan swept aside the notorious British Legion and its commander, Banastre 'Bloody Ban' Tarleton, at Cowpens. Through attrition, Greene wore down Cornwallis's men

and reclaimed much of the Carolinas. Cornwallis believed the best way to defeat him was to cut his supply lines and ended up in Yorktown, on the Virginia coast.

A French fleet sailed from the West Indies to Chesapeake Bay, where they held off a British attack and secured the seas around Yorktown. Cornwallis was cut off. Washington, who had been contemplating an attack on New York, hastily marched south with French commander-in-chief Rochambeau, whilst the Marquis de Lafayette kept the British pinned down.

By the end of September 1781, the combined force had laid siege to Yorktown. Following weeks of bombardment by French siege guns, paltry supplies and a failed evacuation attempt, Cornwallis was forced to surrender on 19 October, with nearly 8,000 men taken prisoner.

At the official ceremony, the British fifes played the tune *The World Turned Upside Down* and as Cornwallis claimed to be ill, the task fell on his second in command to offer his sword, which he did to Rochambeau before being pointed in the direction of Washington. The peace treaty would not be signed until

3 September 1783, but the war was all but over. A nation had been born in revolution and civil war, and won – a nation that went from 56 men in Philadelphia to the global superpower of today, 250 years later.

The 1783 Treaty of Paris recognised the 13 colonies as free and sovereign states independent of Britain



FROM GENERAL TO PRESIDENT

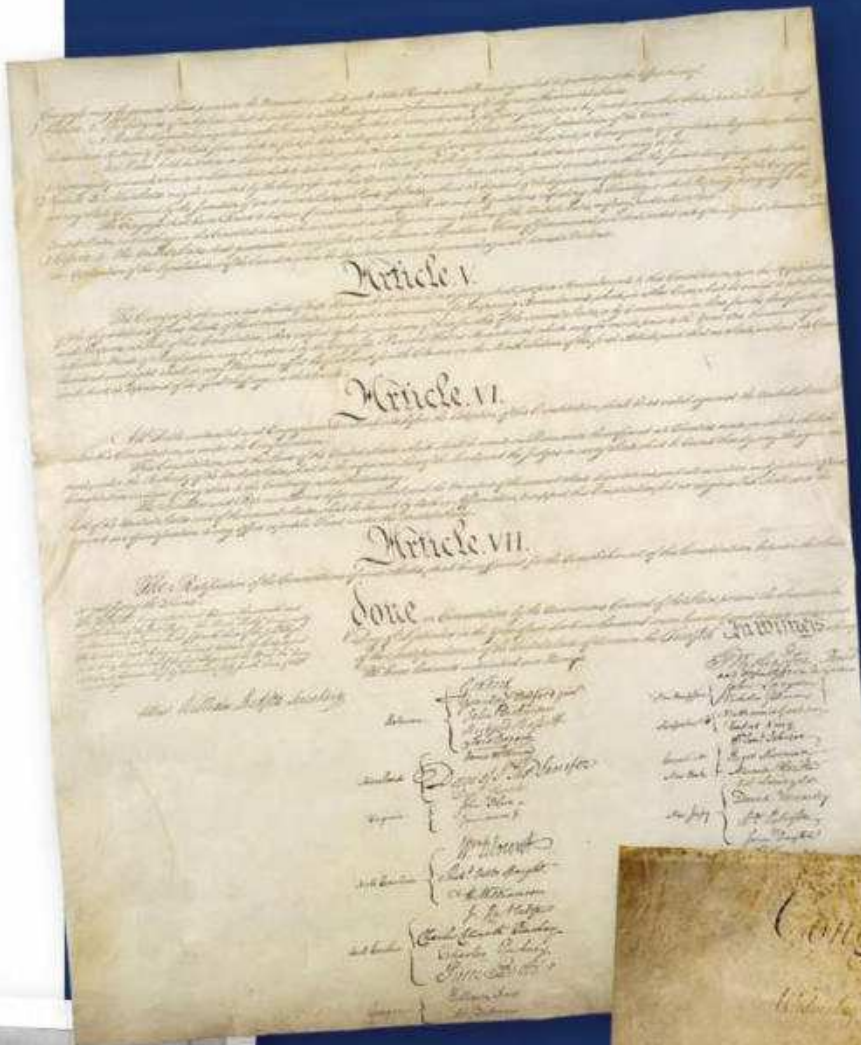
In 1783, with the war won, George Washington resigned his commission and seemed content to spend his days as a farmer at his Virginia home of Mount Vernon. A quiet life was not to be. When the Constitutional Convention convened four years later, the delegates chose him to preside. Then in the first-ever election for the President of the United States, the man who kept the army fighting through years of war was unanimously elected to lead the nation in peace.



Buttons commemorating Washington's inauguration are now worth a fortune



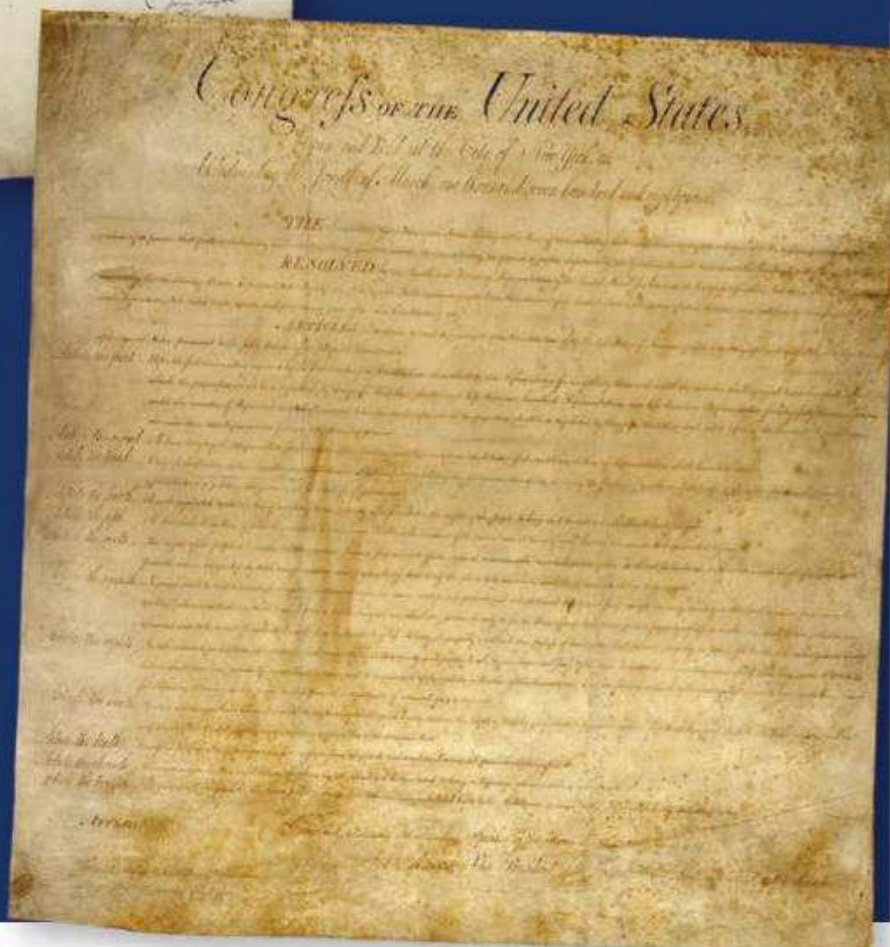
FRAMING THE CONSTITUTION AND THE BILL OF RIGHTS



A new nation needed a new system of government. The United States Constitution, which laid out the structure of the three branches of government plus the basic rights of citizens, was drawn up by 55 delegates, or framers, in 1787. It remains a symbol of American democracy, and is the oldest written national constitution still in use.

Drafting the Constitution caused such bitter disagreements that, as a compromise, 12 amendments were immediately proposed, ten of which were added as appendices to the Constitution as the Bill of Rights in 1791. The Bill protects personal rights and prevents an overly strong government. It includes freedom of speech and religion, and the ever-controversial right to bear arms.

The US Constitution (above) has been amended 27 times, with the first ten amendments to be ratified collectively known as the Bill of Rights (right).



WHO WAS ALEXANDER HAMILTON?

Thanks to a ludicrously popular, critically worshipped and multi-award winning stage musical, the name of Alexander Hamilton is more recognisable than ever. As the opening number of *Hamilton* begins, he was "a bastard, orphan, son of a whore" who grew up to be a "hero and a scholar", the "ten-dollar Founding Father without a father".

Hamilton was born in either 1755 or 1757 in the British West Indies to a Scottish trader, who abandoned the family, and a married woman. Ambitious and intelligent, he went to New York to be educated, but rose to prominence writing pamphlets supporting the colonies. He joined the militia and joined Washington's staff, which saw him lead an assault at Yorktown.

After the war, he helped set up the convention that wrote the Constitution, saw it ratified by writing the majority of the influential *Federalist Papers* and became the first Secretary of the Treasury. There, he founded the national bank.

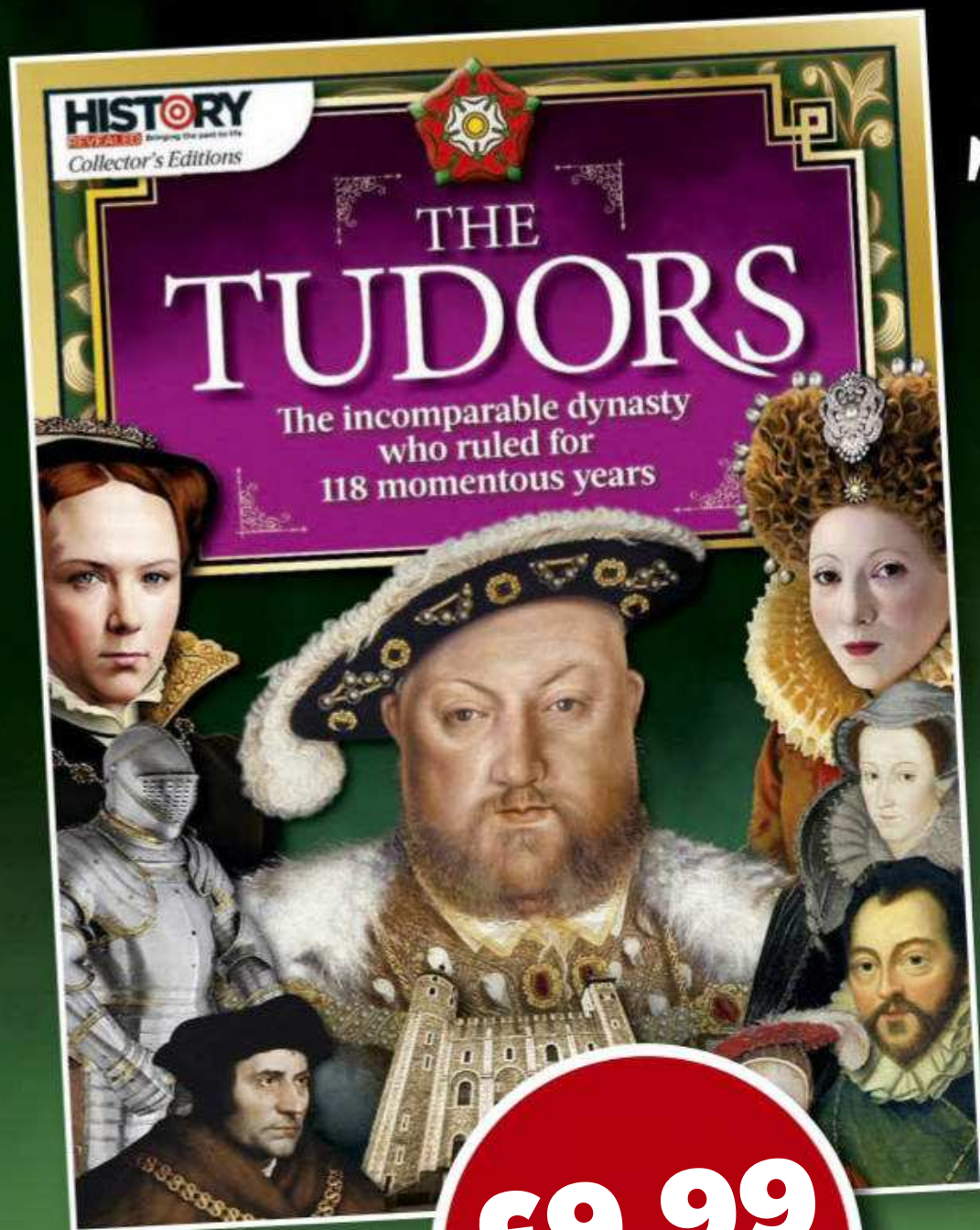
A passionate advocate for a strong, centralised government, Hamilton made enemies over the years. The sitting Vice President, Aaron Burr, challenged him to a duel, which was fought on 11 July 1804. Hamilton missed – Burr did not.



Hamilton has won several Tony awards and a Pulitzer Prize for Drama



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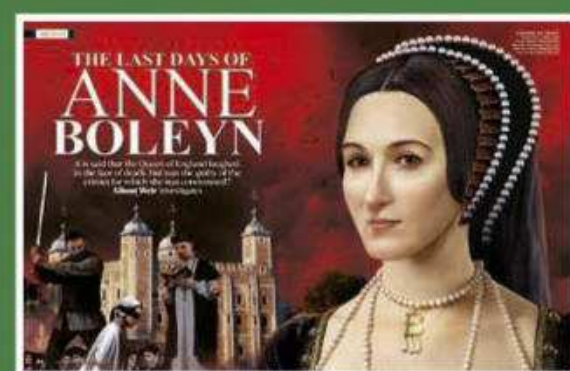
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Q&A

YOU ASK, WE ANSWER



DID YOU KNOW?

STRAIGHT TO THE TOP

During the construction of the Empire State Building, there were plans to add a mooring mast so airships could dock at the top. Nothing came of it, with revered airship commander Dr Hugo Eckener saying that the daft idea "beggars belief".

WHAT WAS THE DEADLIEST AIRSHIP DISASTER?



The word Hindenburg has become a byword for disaster, but we probably should use Akron instead.

When that airship crashed in 1933, there were more than twice as many fatalities.

The USS Akron was a flying aircraft carrier, capable of transporting a mini fleet of biplanes great distances for scouting missions. It logged more than 1,700 flight hours, but already proved prone to accidents before its doomed final voyage.

Caught in a storm off the coast of New Jersey on 4 April 1933, the Akron was flying too low. So low, it turned out, that when the airship's nose was buffeted upwards by the

gusts, its tail – 240 metres from the nose – hit the water. One of its fins was torn off, causing the Akron to splash into the ocean, where it broke apart.

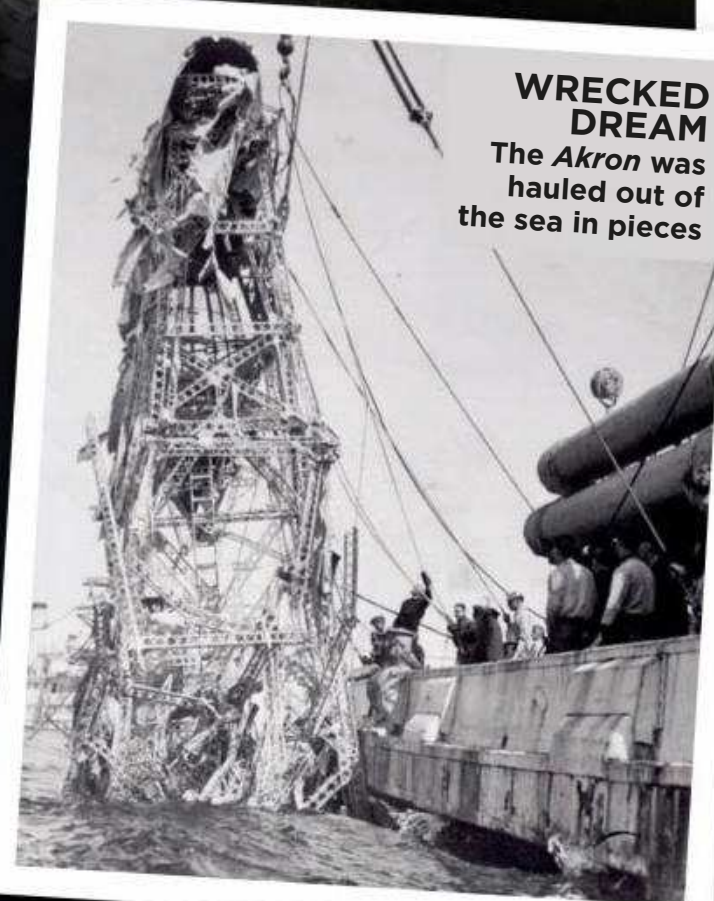
The crash killed 73 of the 76 men aboard, and two died when the rescue airship also went down. The loss of the *Hindenburg*, four years later, claimed 36 lives.

Despite being a US Navy craft, the Akron had no lifejackets and only one raft. The same mistake wasn't made with its sister ship, USS *Macon* – and a good thing too as it also crashed at sea, in 1935, while being commanded by Herbert V Wiley, who was one of the Akron survivors.



SKY SCRAPER
The ill-fated dirigible glides over Lower Manhattan c1930

GETTY X2



WRECKED DREAM
The Akron was hauled out of the sea in pieces

WHAT HAPPENED TO BRUTUS?



After Marcus Junius Brutus and his co-conspirators unambiguously made the point (23 times) for Julius Caesar to beware the Ides of March, they hoped peace would come to Rome.

They were wrong. Public outrage at Caesar's murder forced Brutus to flee, along with Cassius, and the republic plunged into yet another civil war. Future emperor Octavian and Mark Antony joined forces and crushed the assassins' armies at the two Battles of Philippi. Cassius committed suicide after the first, Brutus after the second. Allegedly, he ran into his sword being held by two men. At least he got stabbed in the front.

263

The number of the house on the Amsterdam canal Prinsengracht, that Anne Frank hid in with her family and four other Jews for more than two years.



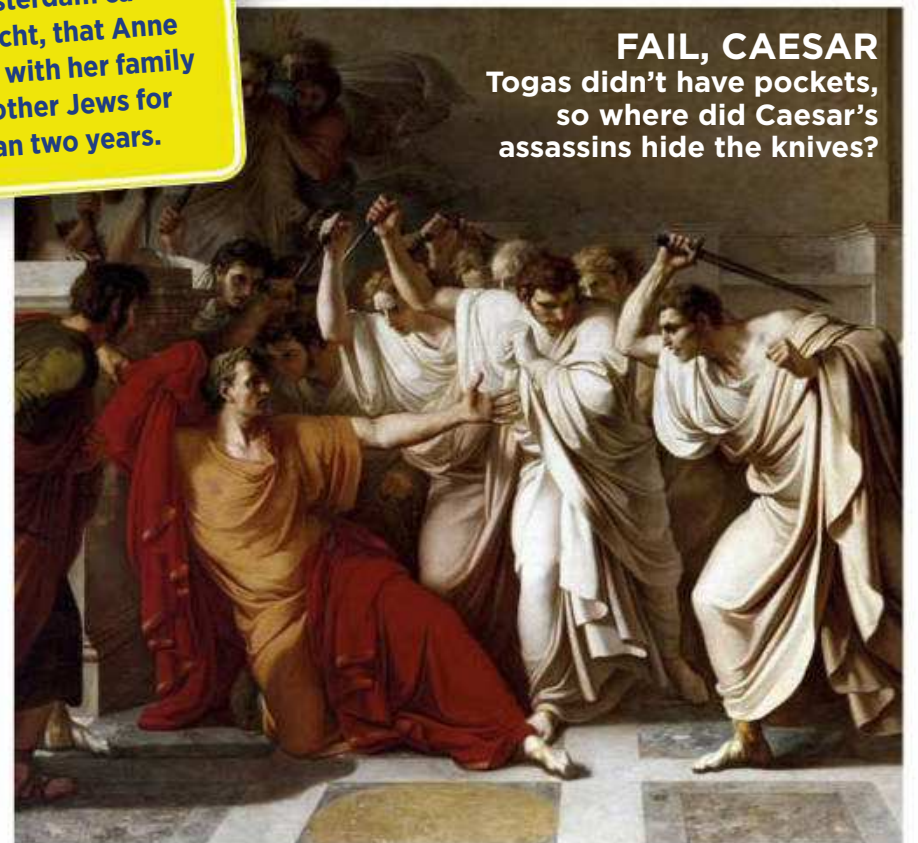
THE FULL MONTE
Monte Carlo in Monaco has surpassed the Casinò di Venezia in fame, appearing in several Hollywood films

Where was the first casino?



Monaco first put its chips down in 1856, Las Vegas only took its seat at the table in the 1930s, but Venice's first casino opened in 1638. The Casinò di Venezia was created by the Great Council of Venice in an attempt to control the inevitable widespread gambling during the Carnival season.

From the Italian for 'little house', the casino was a place of all-round pleasure, dancing and music as well as gambling. And the Casinò di Venezia is still going strong, with the addition of the Wagner Museum in 1995. The composer Richard Wagner died of a heart attack in the casino more than a century earlier, in 1883.



FAIL, CAESAR
Togas didn't have pockets, so where did Caesar's assassins hide the knives?



STUFF OF NIGHTMARES
At 47 metres wide, this spider belongs in a horror film

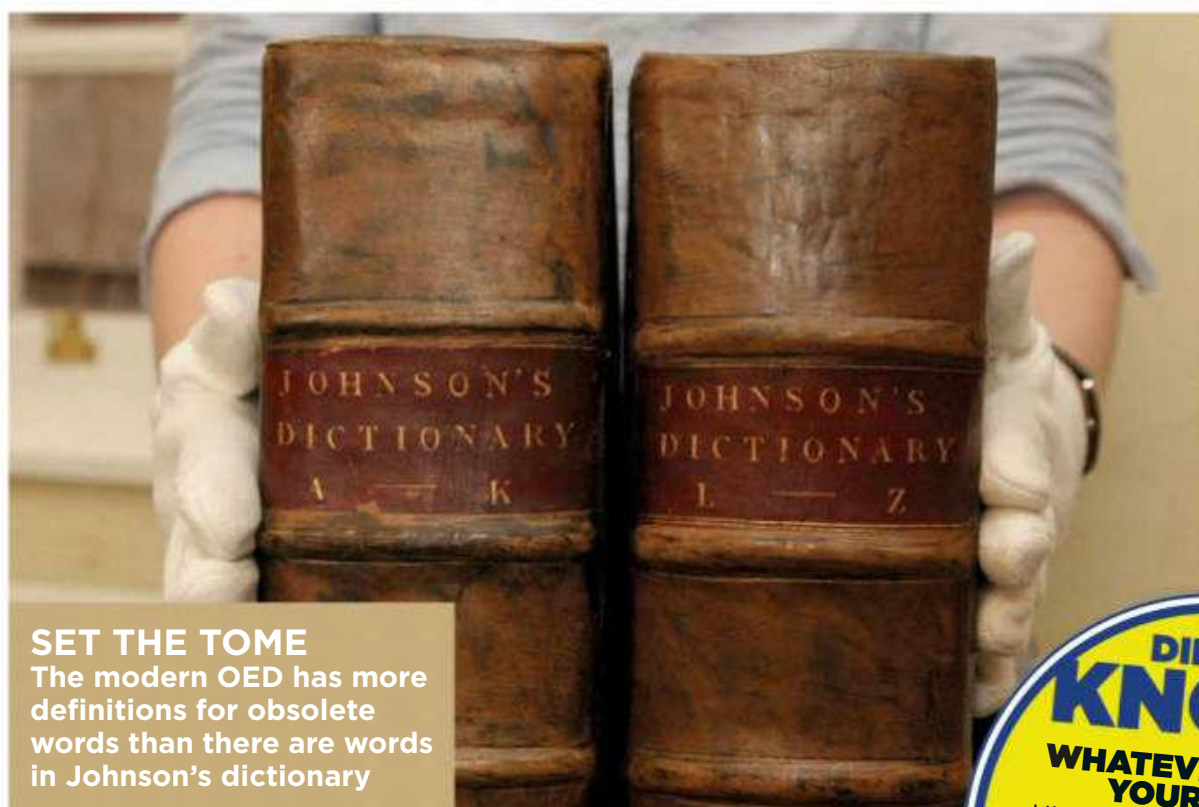
What were the Nazca Lines meant for?



The hundreds of geoglyphs collectively known as the Nazca Lines cover almost 190 square miles of southern Peruvian desert. Unseen fully until the invention of the airplane, they include a spider, a killer whale, fish, a llama, lizards, a hummingbird, a pelican and a monkey. Most are around 2,000 years old and are thought to have been carved into the ground by the Nazca people.

Exactly why is still under debate. A 16th-century Spanish conquistador mistook the lines for trail markers, while research after they were spotted from commercial aircraft in the 1920s suggested they had astronomical purposes. Of course, with anything like this, it won't take long before aliens are mentioned too.

Yet the prevailing theory points to the Nazca Lines being used in ceremonies and acts of worship to deities, to bring water for the crops. After all, only the gods in the heavens had a proper view of them.



SET THE TOME

The modern OED has more definitions for obsolete words than there are words in Johnson's dictionary

DID YOU KNOW?

WHATEVER TICKLES YOUR FANCY

High-born women in Imperial Russia paid for foot tickling to get them in the mood. With the pleasure, though, could come pain – Catherine the Great once had a lady-in-waiting tickled as a punishment.

How long did it take Dr Johnson to compile his dictionary?

Asked to make a new dictionary in 1746 by a group of booksellers, Dr Samuel Johnson saw his role as to “remove rubbish” from the paths of learning. It took him and six assistants between eight and nine years to compile 42,773 words, complete with supporting quotations. The word ‘take’ needed five pages and 134 definitions. One wonders if ‘taking the biscuit’ was in there.

Johnson published his *Dictionary of the English Language* in 1755. Compare that to the equivalent French dictionary, which required over half a century of work from 40 scholars, and the scale of

his achievement becomes clear. His lexicon was by no means complete, though, as it included only a fraction of English words. Johnson left out X entirely, saying: “X is a letter, which, though found in Saxon words, begins no word in the English language.”

His little nuggets of humour highlighted the flaws in his method. He defined ‘oats’ as “A grain, which in England is generally given to horses, but in Scotland supports the people,” and under ‘dull’ he put: “Not exhilarating, not delightful, as ‘to make dictionaries is dull work’.”



EXPLOSIVE LEGACY

The sculptors used dynamite to create the rough shape of the heads

Who coined ‘glass ceiling’?

“On several occasions, I was told that the advancement of women within middle management was ‘degrading the importance’ of these positions.” So recalled Marilyn Loden on what inspired her to come up with ‘glass ceiling’ 40 years ago, at a 1978 panel sponsored by the Women’s Action Alliance.

The term didn’t enter mainstream use until the 1980s, following hard-hitting and often-quoted articles in *Adweek* and *The Wall Street Journal*.

In 1995, the Glass Ceiling Commission found that women held only three to five per

cent of senior management positions at top US companies, and while the glass ceiling is cracking, it’s one shard at a time rather than a spectacular action-movie smash.



Who created Mount Rushmore?

Historian Doane Robinson thought that colossal, carved heads would do much for the prestige of his state, South Dakota. He wanted the monument to depict figures of the West – Native American and white alike – but the sculptor, Gutzon Borglum, preferred to show the history of US democracy. That meant presidents.

The hair-raising work began in 1927 with a dedication from incumbent US President Calvin Coolidge – who may have grumbled a little at not getting an 18-metre granite effigy of his own – and lasted, on and off, for 14 years.

Borglum didn’t live to see the finished monument, by a matter of months, so his son took over in 1941. By then, there had been talk of adding a fifth head, of suffragist Susan B Anthony, but the funding fell through.



SIMPLY NOT DIVINE
Tarot cards had no powers of divination in their early incarnations

11

The length of rigging, in miles, on the Cutty Sark. The British tea clipper could reach speeds of 17.5 knots, making her one of the fastest ships of the day.

WHAT WERE THE ORIGINS OF TAROT CARDS?

Although you might imagine tarot cards alongside fortune tellers, crystal balls and tea leaves, they were originally playing cards. Invented in the 1430s, Italians used tarot, or tarocchi, for a game similar to Bridge. A deck had 78 cards – with 56 split into

four suits like today, and the remaining 22, known as major arcana, are the ones we consider tarot: the Hanged Man, The Lovers and so on. They were designed for wealthy families as a status symbol, and didn't become a fortune-telling favourite until the 18th century.

Who made the first long-distance car trip?

The answer is Benz – not German engineer Karl Benz, who patented the automobile propelled by an internal-combustion engine, but his wife Bertha. She paid to get the car built and, knowing Karl to be useless at marketing, came up with a publicity stunt to help sell it.

Early one day in August 1888, Bertha woke up in Mannheim, Germany, climbed aboard the three-wheeler Model III Benz Patent-Motorwagen with two of her sons and set off for her mother's house in Pforzheim. The trip was arduous. She had to make do with dusty tracks suited for horses, collect water from rivers to cool the engine, unclog the fuel line with a hatpin, insulate the ignition with her garter and ask a cobbler to replace the leather brake shoe linings. When the tank ran empty,

WHEELY GOOD
Bertha went to extreme efforts to stay in touch with her family

she bought ligroin, a petroleum solvent from a pharmacy. Yet roughly 65 miles and plenty of shocked looks at the “smoking monster” later, she arrived a newspaper sensation.

After three days, the queen of the road drove all the way back to offer Karl advice on what improvements to make to his now well-tested car.



When did Sparta fall?

Even in defeat, Leonidas and his 300 had shown how skilled (plus oiled and buff) the Spartan warriors were. Then when they crushed their rivals Athens in the Peloponnesian War (431–404 BC), the fighting-mad Greek state took on an air of invincibility. Yet Sparta's strength was its downfall. The Spartans stretched themselves too thin until, on 6 July 371 BC, their armies suffered a catastrophic defeat to a smaller force from the Boetian League. The victorious general Epaminondas followed up the Battle of Leuctra by liberating the Messenians, cutting off a centuries-old source of Spartan slaves. Sparta kept itself isolated – not helping the gene pool – and the population plummeted. What's more, enemies got wise to their once-fearsome battle tactics. Soon, it was time to shout “THIS IS NO LONGER SPARTA!”



GOT YOUR NUMBER

Limited tactics and a lack of friends were the death knell for the Spartans



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Writing – A Job with All Sorts of Opportunities for All Kinds of People

by Phil Busby

Do you fancy a challenge? What about the chance to make some money, get VIP access to major sporting and cultural events, or free holidays abroad? How would you like to look in the mirror and say, “Yeah – I did it!”

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For the last 29 years The Writers Bureau has been helping new writers get started in the business. Writers like Louise Kennedy, who struck gold when she started blogging about her life on a boat from the viewpoint of ... her cat. Baily Boat Cat was picked up by a major publisher and

“My tutor was lovely, encouraging and offered me great constructive criticism.”

turned into a book which now sells world wide. “The Writers Bureau has given me the confidence to follow my dreams,” Louise says. “My tutor was lovely, encouraging and offered me great constructive criticism.”

Another WB student, Martin Read, wanted to keep active in his retirement and his writing led to a great little bonus. “As a result of my cricket articles, I have been elected into The Cricket Writers Club – an organisation that counts experienced journalists among its members. One of the perks of this membership is a press card that gives me entry into all of England’s cricket stadium press boxes.” And there are not many that get in there.

Then there’s Jacqueline Jaynes, who just loves to travel: “The Writers Bureau course has done everything I hoped it would and more. There was a clear progression through chapters so that my writing skills and confidence grew steadily with feedback from my tutor. The market research



Louise Kennedy

Martin Read

Jacqueline Jaynes

activities were invaluable for opening up potential new avenues for publication.” Those new avenues led to a travel website where Jacqueline started writing short articles. Soon she was asked to join the team, and now she and her husband get expenses paid trips all over the world in exchange for reviews!

These are just some of the many inspirational true stories from Writers Bureau students. And there’s no reason why you shouldn’t join them. Who knows, this time next year I could be writing about your success. With a 15-day trial and money back guarantee, there’s nothing to lose and potentially a whole new life to gain. So why not visit the website at www.writersbureau.com or call Freephone 0800 856 2008 for more information?

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Sarah Plater “I’m currently working on my fourth book, have been paid for my writing by at least 15 different magazines, and now earn half my income from writing – all thanks to The Writers Bureau’s course.”

Alice Vinten “Due to the advance I received for *Girl On The Line* I have now been able to become a full time writer. I also managed to find an agent to represent me for my work in progress – a crime novel. My Writers Bureau course is where it all started.”



Walter Dinjos “I enrolled in The Writers Bureau’s Creative Writing course in the hope of building my confidence as a writer and ending my cycle of publishing failures. I currently work as a content writer with a writing agency and have even won an international writing competition.”



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ON OUR RADAR

A guide to what's happening in the world of history over the coming weeks



There are no antibiotics in this 19th-century medicine chest. Instead you'll find peppermint water, tinctures of turkey rhubarb and laudanum



The letters of Elizabeth Garret Anderson, the first woman to qualify as a doctor in Britain

EXHIBITION

This Vexed Question: 500 Years of Women in Medicine

Royal College of Physicians, London, until 18 January
www.rcplondon.ac.uk

Women have worked in the world of medicine for hundreds of years, yet have often been viewed with suspicion by their male counterparts. This exhibition celebrates 2018 being the year that men and women are expected to enter the medical profession in equal numbers, as well as the centenaries of the first women being given the vote in Britain and the end of World War I. Expect to find answers to questions that have dominated women's roles within medicine and to discover the hidden stories of the first female doctors.

WHAT'S ON

Anglo-Saxon Kingdoms:
Art, Word, War..... p79



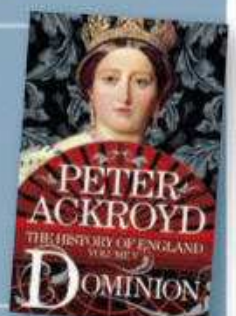
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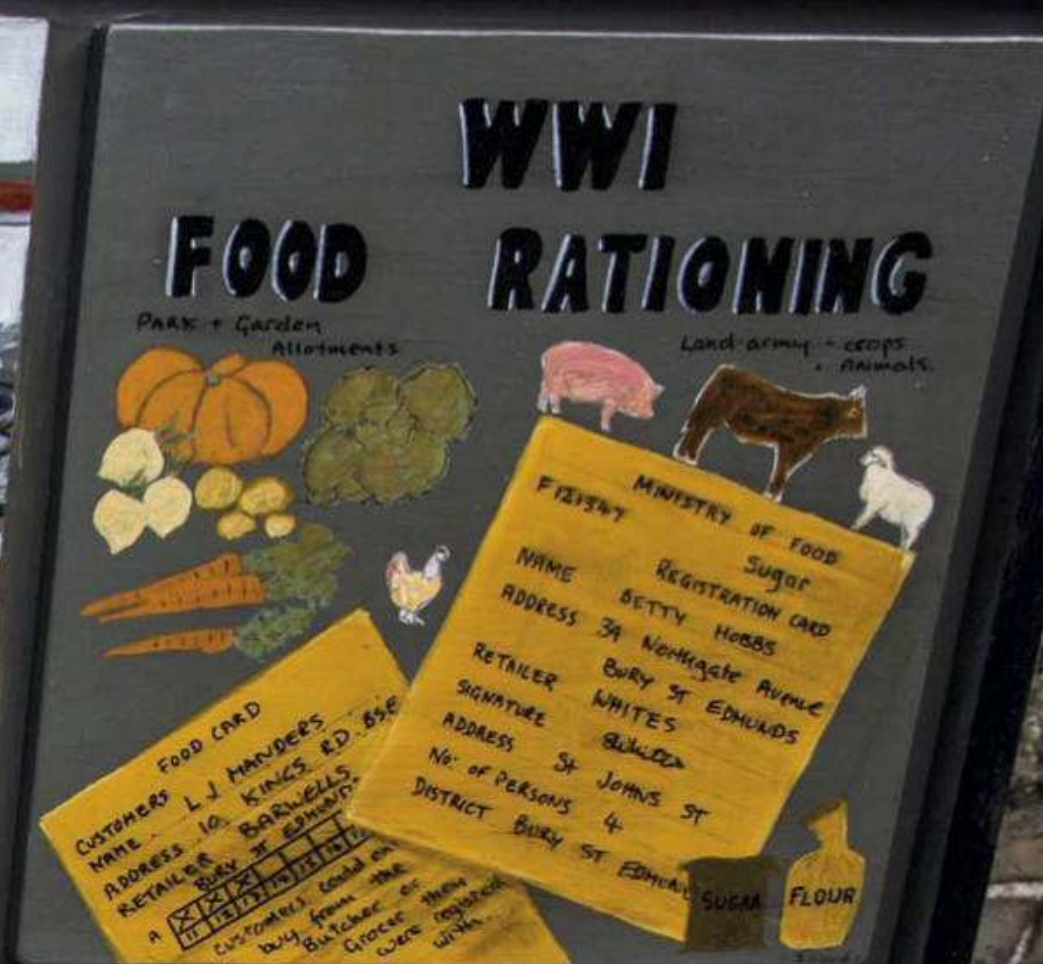


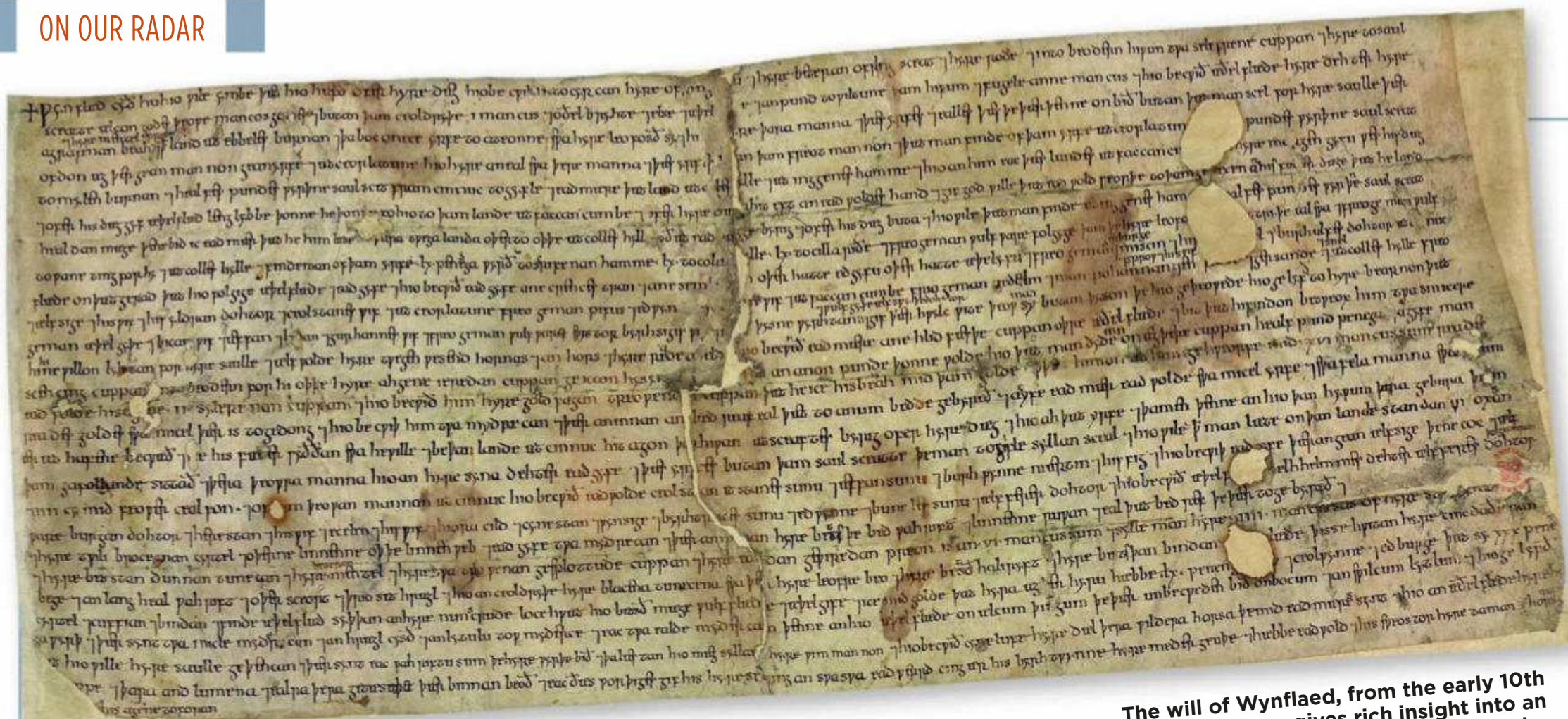
EVENT

WWI Art Trail

Bury St Edmunds, until 11 November
www.ourburystedmunds.com/ww1trail

An art trail has been created in Bury St Edmunds to commemorate the end of World War I, and the effect of the war not only on those who fought, but on those who remained behind. Local artists have created 18 pieces of art, installed across the town, as interpretations of aspects of the war and its impact on communities.





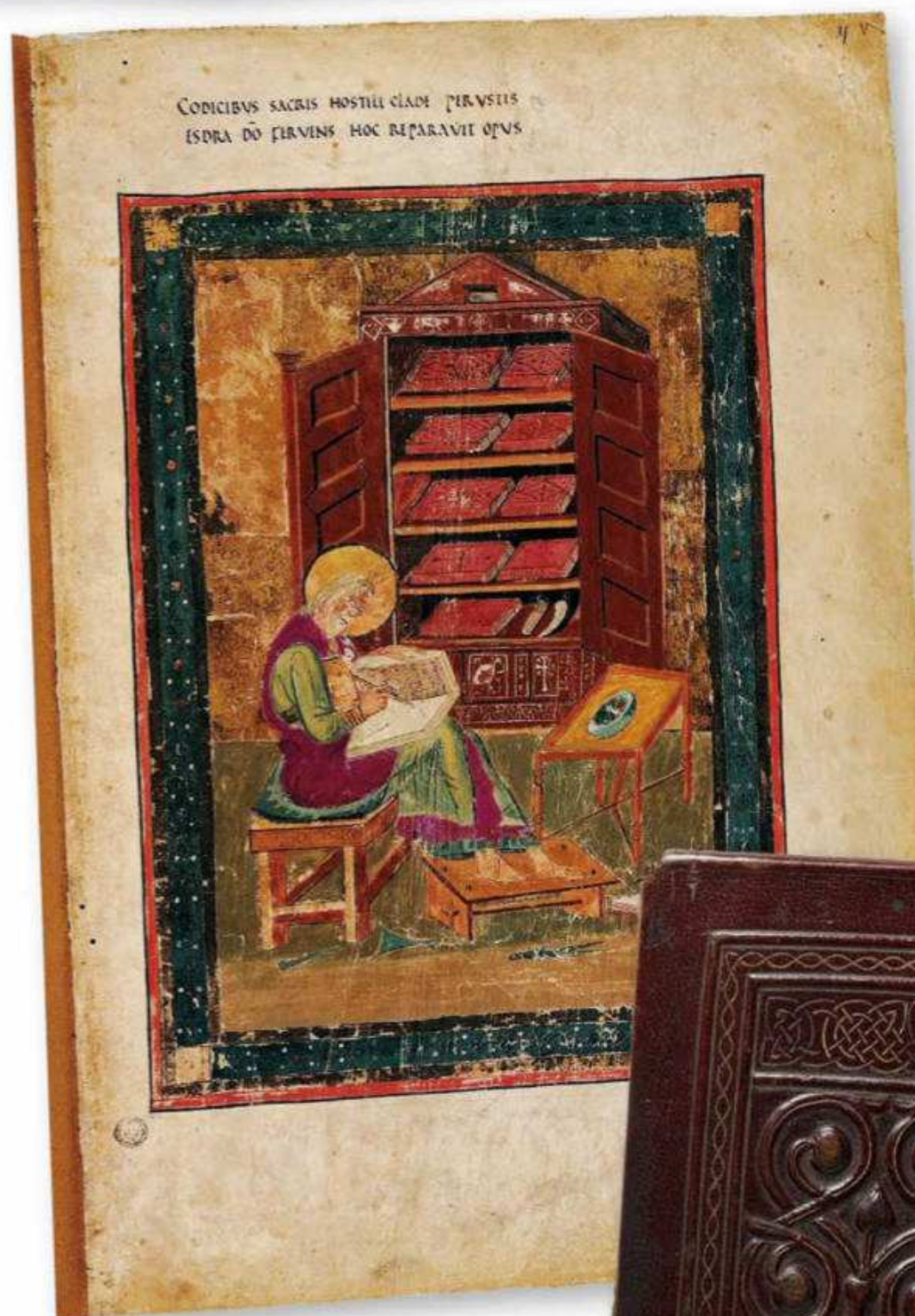
The will of Wynflaed, from the early 10th or 11th century, gives rich insight into an Anglo-Saxon noblewoman's wardrobe

EXHIBITION

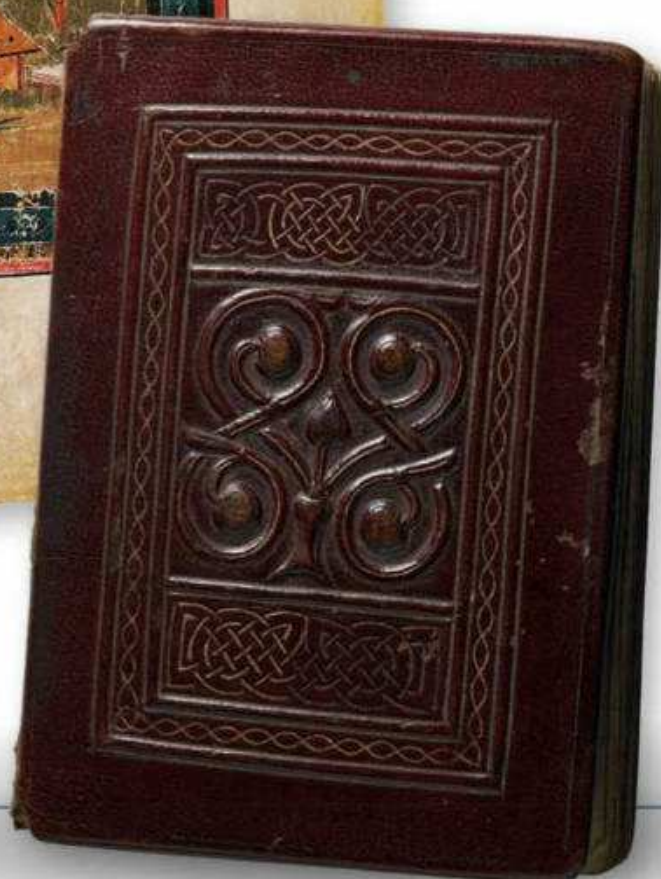
Anglo-Saxon Kingdoms: Art, Word, War

British Library, London, 19 October 2018 to 19 February 2019
www.bl.uk/events/anglo-saxon-kingdoms

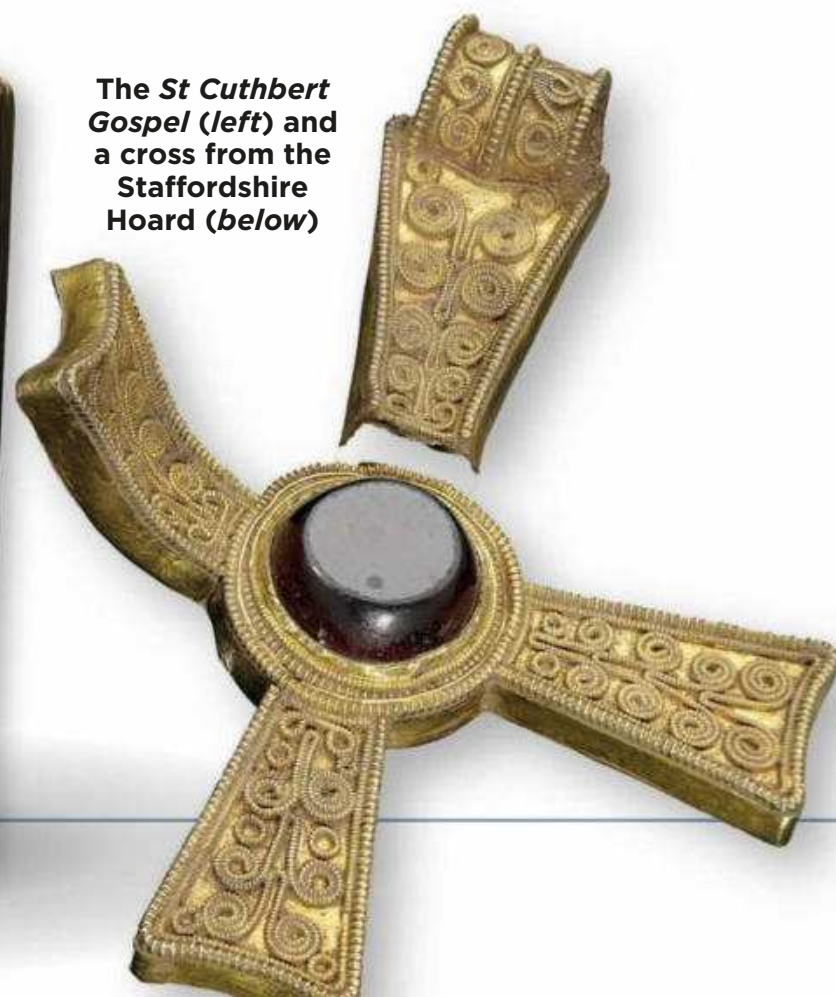
An exciting exhibition at the British Library explores the beautifully handcrafted manuscripts that the Anglo-Saxons created and the origins of the English language. As well as items from the Library's own collection, including the illuminated Lindisfarne Gospels and the Old English epic *Beowulf*, you'll also be able to see the earliest surviving manuscript of the Latin Vulgate version of the *Bible*, the *Codex Amiatinus*, which is returning to Britain for the first time in 1300 years. It was written in the eighth century at the Wearmouth-Jarrow monastery and sent to Italy as a gift for the Pope in AD 716.



The *Codex Amiatinus* was created at the Wearmouth-Jarrow monastery in Northumbria, the same place that the Venerable Bede received his education



The *St Cuthbert Gospel* (left) and a cross from the Staffordshire Hoard (below)





PLAY

The Unreturning

Theatres across the country until 16 March 2019
www.franticassembly.co.uk/productions/the-unreturning

The Unreturning is three stories woven into one. Three men, all from the same coastal town, return home from war at different points in the past 100 years. Will the town help them heal old wounds, or will it reopen them anew? You can find out at any of the nine cities on the play's tour, which include Edinburgh, Swansea, Liverpool and London,

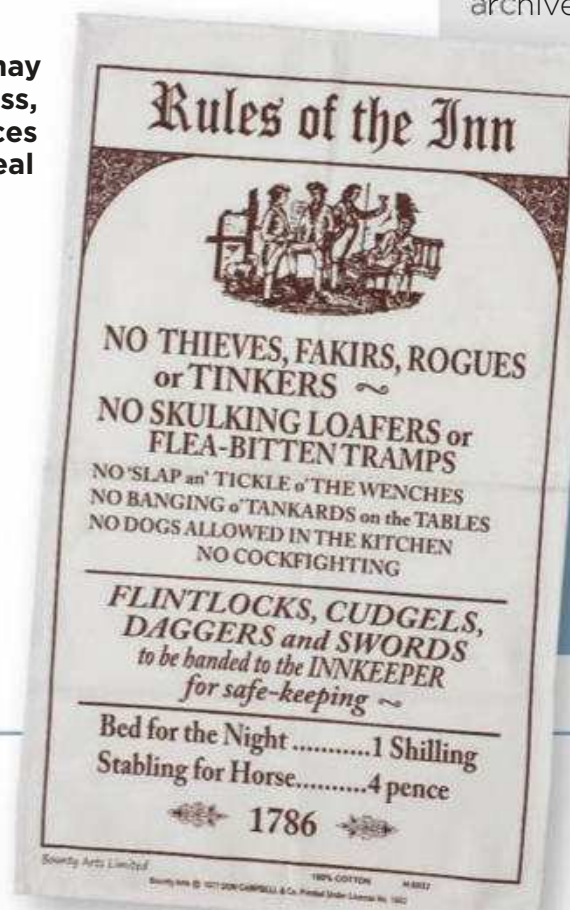
TO BUY

Tea towel

£5, National Museums Liverpool
bit.ly/2CJgBow

Everyone will toe the line in the kitchen this winter with this amusing tea towel. Based on a poster from 1786, it's a handy guide to all the laws that every home bar needs – including 'no banging of tankards on the tables'!

The rules may be timeless, but the prices are a steal



Dress up as a soldier and relive crucial moments at Worcester's Commandery

EXHIBITION

Worcester's Civil War Story

The Commandery, Worcester, bit.ly/2CGMgqI

Worcester's vital role in the British Civil Wars is the focus of a new visitor experience at the Commandery. This historic building has played many parts in its long history, among them the headquarters of the Royalist army during the Battle of Worcester, the decisive Parliamentary victory that forced Charles II to flee to France. Worcester was occupied by both Royalist and Parliamentary troops during the conflicts, and this interactive exhibition will take visitors back 350 years to discover the strategies employed by the opposing armies. You can also learn about the families who were ripped apart by the clash between the Roundheads and the Cavaliers.

FILM

They Shall Not Grow Old

London premiere and UK screenings, 16 October,
www.iwm.org.uk/events/peter-jackson-they-shall-not-grow-old

The Lord of the Rings director Peter Jackson and the Imperial War Museum have colourised and digitised previously unseen footage from World War I to create this film, which features interviews from the BBC and IWM archives with those who served. It premieres at the BFI Film Festival and will be simulcast in cinemas across the country, before airing on BBC One on Armistice Day.



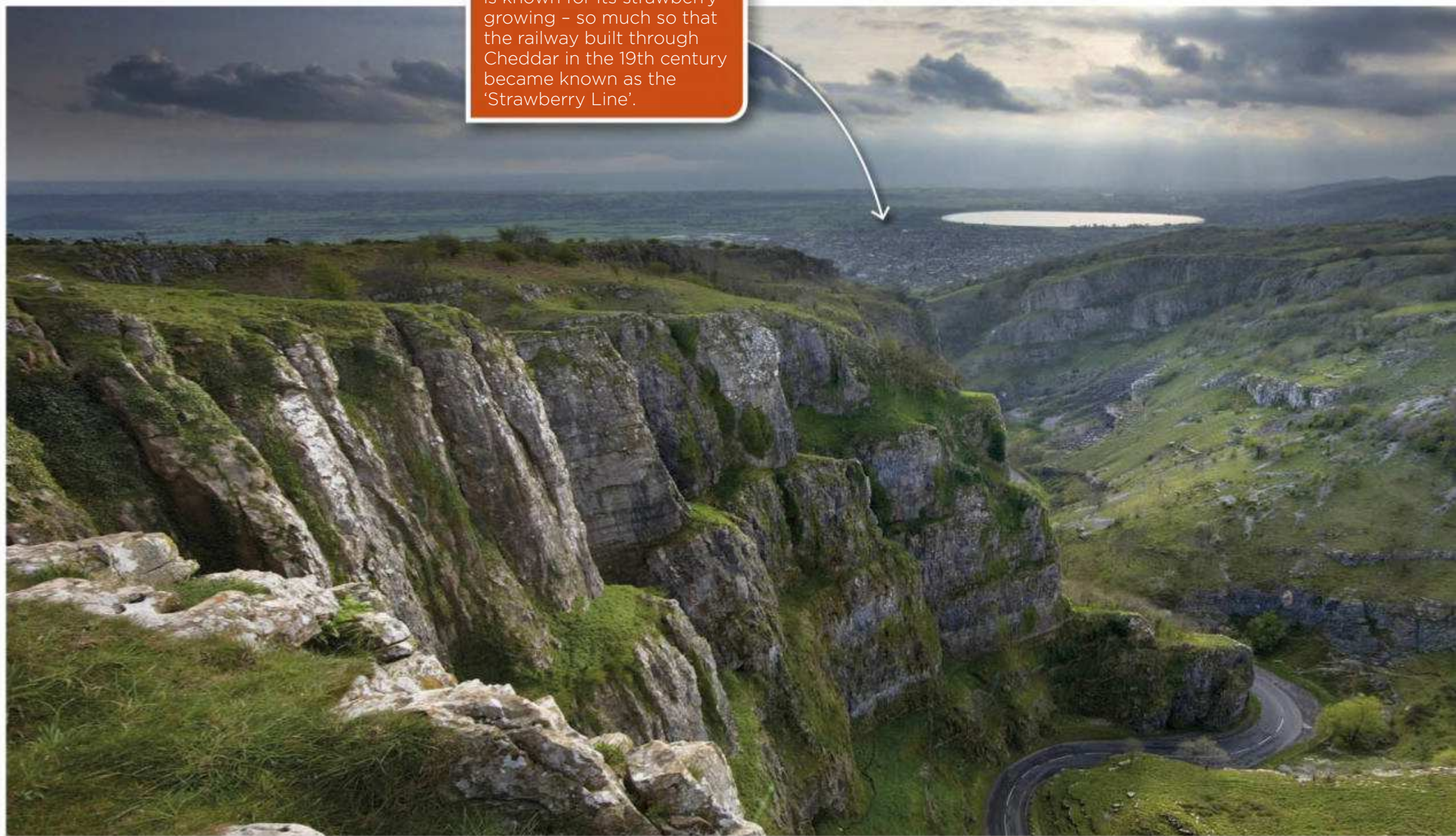
It's not just colourisation – the restoration work lets you see more detail

► ALSO LOOK OUT FOR

- Cheltenham Literature Festival – Speakers include Antony Beevor and Mary Beard. Cheltenham, 5-14 October, www.cheltenhamfestivals.com/literature
- Lest We Forget – An exhibition about the causes and controversies of remembrance in the wake of World War I. Imperial War Museum North, Manchester, until 24 February. www.iwm.org.uk/events/lest-we-forget

STRAWBERRIES AND STEAM

As well as cheese, Cheddar is known for its strawberry growing – so much so that the railway built through Cheddar in the 19th century became known as the ‘Strawberry Line’.

**BRITAIN'S TREASURES...****CHEDDAR GORGE AND CAVES** Somerset

Shaped over millions of years, the natural beauty of Britain's largest gorge is clear – but there are secrets of human history lurking here too, under the surface

GETTING THERE:

Postcode: BS27 3QF. Exit the M5 at Junction 22 and take the A38, then A371 and B3135. Follow the brown tourist signs. Buses can be caught from Weston-super-Mare, Axbridge and Wells.

**OPENING TIMES AND PRICES:**

Open all year round, except 25 and 31 December. If tickets are bought on the gate, adults get in for £19.95, children £14.95 and under fives are free. Discounts are available online.

FIND OUT MORE:

www.cheddargorge.co.uk

When the 12th-century historian Henry of Huntingdon wrote in his chronicle *Historia Anglorum* of the “four wonders which may be seen in England”, he included the caves of Cheddar Gorge, right after Stonehenge. “There is an underground cavern which many people have often entered, but although they have travelled a long way over dry land and over rivers, they have never been able to come out at the other end,” he declared.

It is easy to see why he chose Cheddar, and why the gorge and caves deep in Somerset

still regularly feature in polls of Britain's greatest natural wonder. The views from the top are breathtaking and the caves, which have been used by humans for 40,000 years, have revealed important discoveries about prehistoric peoples.

The town of Cheddar, famous for its cheese, lies on the edge of the Mendip Hills, a rugged limestone landscape stretching for 23 miles. The gorge there, the largest in Britain, formed over millions of years by ice ages and falling sea levels, which raised the Mendips. As the Cheddar Yeo

river froze and thawed, meltwater carved through the valley and disappeared underground.

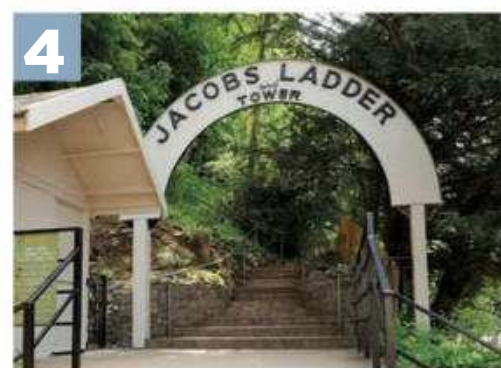
During the 19th century, tourists were often led by candlelight around the caves – some of which were even lived in by families too poor to afford a home. In 1837, mill owner George Cox had located a stalactite cavern by accident while quarrying for limestone. He opened Cox's Cave to the public and it became such a success that others were inspired to investigate. In the 1890s, a local named Richard Gough dug into the cave that now bears his



1

GOUGH'S CAVE

The largest show cave features wondrous caverns, including the domed St Paul's, and was where Cheddar Man, Britain's oldest complete skeleton, was found.



4

JACOB'S LADDER

A climb of 274 steps, plus the last bit (another 48 steps) to the look-out tower, offers breathtaking views over the Mendips and leads to a cliff-top walk above Cheddar.

WHAT TO LOOK FOR...



2

COX'S CAVE

Named after the mill owner who discovered it in 1837, Cox's Cave is best known for its impressive coloured stalagmite formations and was once a river channel.



3

DREAMHUNTERS

In one of the many chambers of Cox's Cave, a multimedia experience takes visitors through the journey of early man, telling their story on the cave walls.



5

MUSEUM OF PREHISTORY

Through the many finds discovered in the caves, from flint tools to human remains, the museum shows how Cheddar has provided insights into the lives of our ancestors.



6

BLACK CAT FREE FALL

The more adventurous can see Gough's Cave in a new way by climbing a ladder and, once secured to safety lines, leaping into the Black Cat Chamber.

Cheddar Gorge reaches a depth of 137 metres, making for a spectacular drive for those on the Cliff Road

"Three human skulls were shaped into cups or bowls"

name, the largest of the show caves in Cheddar. Both remain open to visitors, drawn by the beauty of the cavernous chambers, intricate and coloured stalactite and stalagmite formations, and the subterranean river system.

EARLY BRITON

The greatest discovery at Cheddar came in 1903. Near the entrance to Gough's Cave, an almost complete skeleton was unearthed. Radiocarbon dating concluded that it was a man in his late twenties who lived around 10,000 years ago. Cheddar Man, as he became known, is the oldest *Homo sapiens* skeleton discovered in Britain. A hole in his skull suggests he suffered a violent death. In 1997, DNA testing on

residents of Cheddar found that he has descendants still living in the area. Today, Cheddar Man is kept at the National History Museum, but a convincing replica is kept at the caves. As well as Cheddar Man, a wealth of items have been revealed, including Neolithic flint spearheads, further human remains and the bones of wolves and bears.

From these finds, amazing revelations have been possible. Research released in 2017 suggested that the inhabitants of the caves engaged in cannibalism, as bones from Gough's Cave had human teeth marks and unusual markings that archaeologists believe were intentionally made. The engravings may have been part of a cannibalistic ritual. Then

there are three human skulls that were shaped into cups or bowls.

The caves therefore delight geologists, archaeologists and historians alike, and have inspired countless others. Fantasy author JRR Tolkien spent his honeymoon in Somerset in 1916 and it's thought that the caves at Helm's Deep, one of the places in his creation of Middle Earth, had their origins in Cheddar.

For the 500,000 or so annual visitors today, a trip can reach the heights of the gorge with a cliff-top walk and the caves' depths with an underground adventure. And don't forget to pick up some world-famous Cheddar cheese. It has been matured in the caves for hundreds of years due to their constant, humid temperatures.

WHY NOT VISIT...

There is much to see and further gorge yourself on in Somerset

KING JOHN'S HUNTING LODGE

The striking black-and-white, timber-framed building in Axbridge was home to a wool merchant in Tudor times. It is now a local history museum.

www.nationaltrust.org.uk/king-johns-hunting-lodge

WELLS CATHEDRAL

Set in the heart of Wells, the cathedral is one of the earliest built in the Gothic style. The West Front and Scissor Arches are highlights.

www.wellscathedral.org.uk

GLASTONBURY ABBEY

Legend has it that the seventh-century monastery, closed in the dissolution, is the burial place of King Arthur and Guinevere.

www.glastonburyabbey.com

BOOKS

This month's best historical reads

**BOOK
OF THE
MONTH**

Rome: Eternal City

By **Ferdinand Addis**

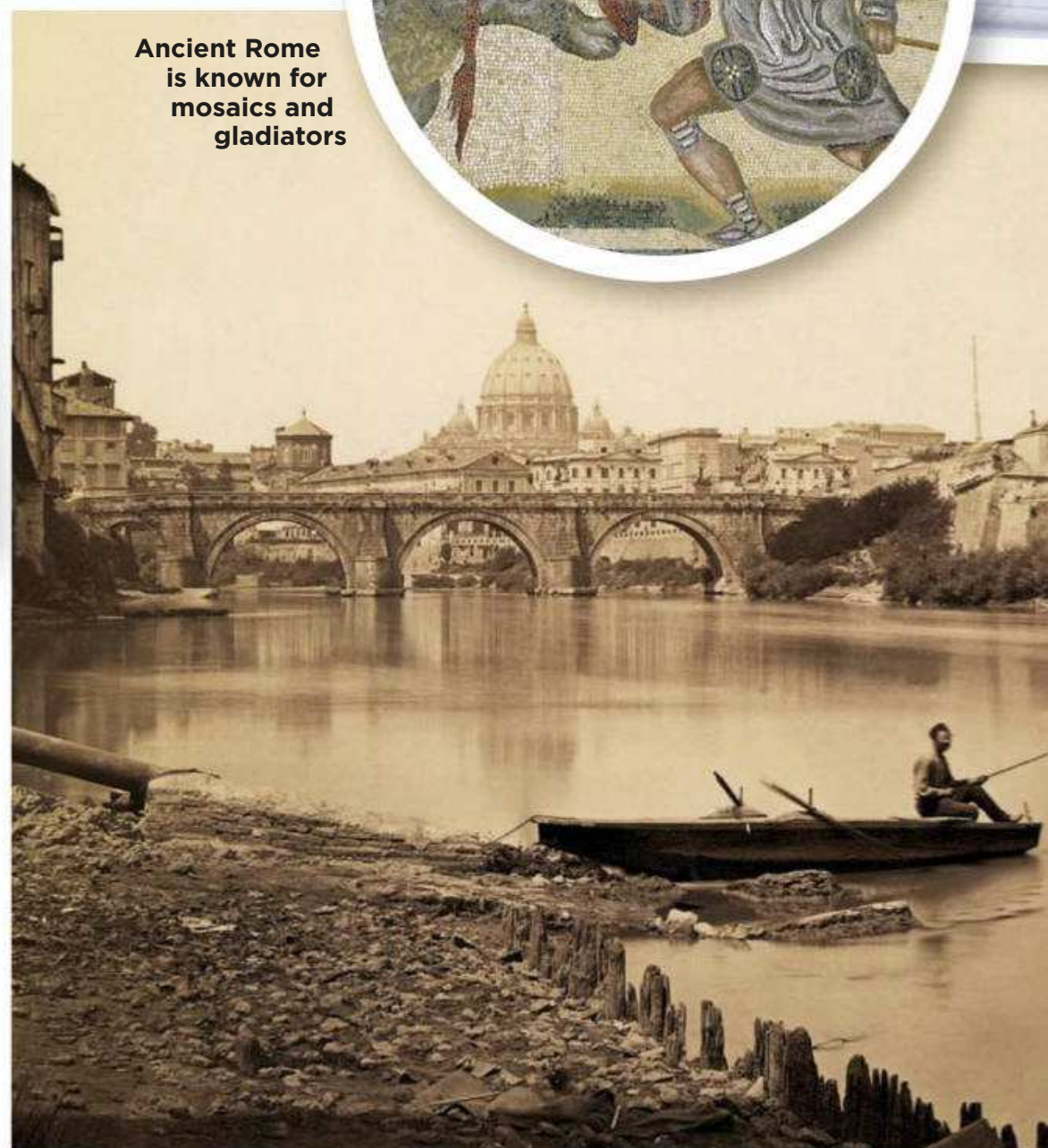
Head of Zeus, £30, hardback, 648 pages

Telling the entire story of a city in a concise, meaningful way is always a challenge, but particularly when that city is somewhere as steeped in history as Rome. Ferdinand Addis solves this problem by adopting the in-vogue trend of using episodic vignettes – vantage points from particular moments in time that help reveal the larger narrative across hundreds of years.

And, of course, one advantage of chronicling somewhere as storied as Rome is that you're not short of incident: from genius artists to dramatic demises and plotting politicians, there's plenty here to enjoy.

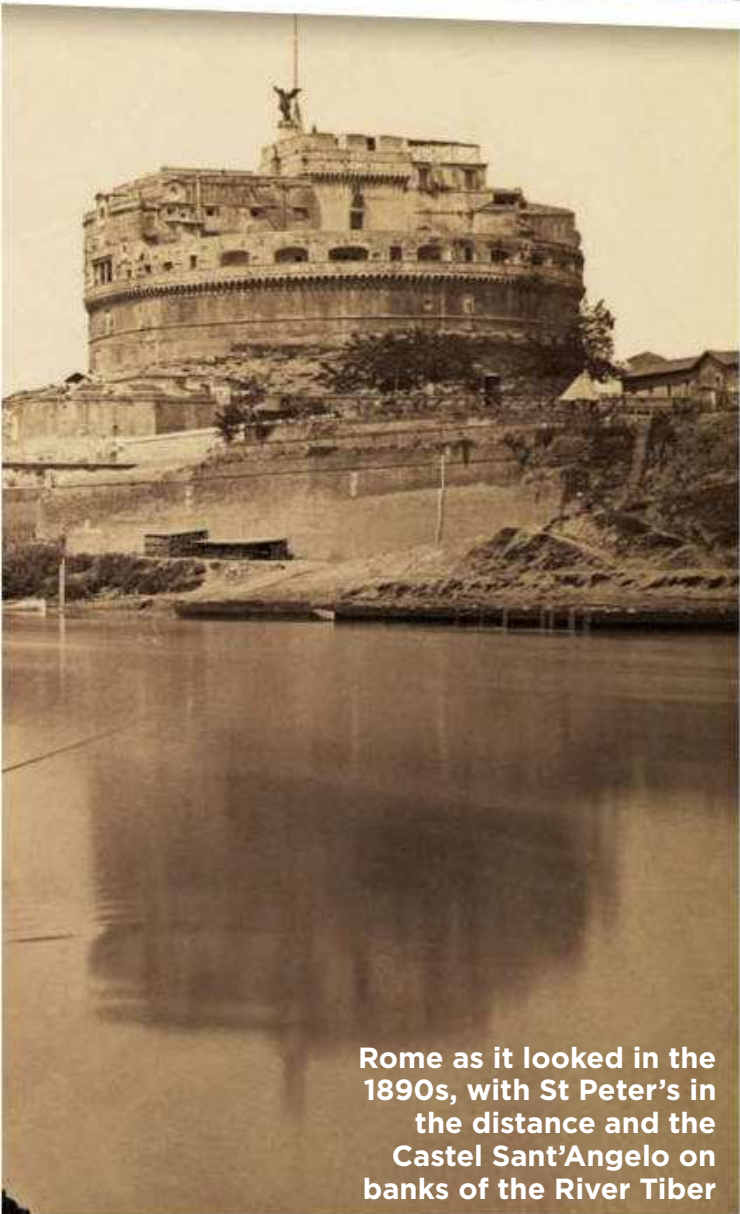


Ancient Rome
is known for
mosaics and
gladiators



**“Telling the entire
story of a city is
always a challenge,
but particularly when
that city is Rome”**

This masterpiece of Roman sculpture, Laocoön and His Sons, stands in the Vatican



Rome as it looked in the 1890s, with St Peter's in the distance and the Castel Sant'Angelo on banks of the River Tiber

MEET THE AUTHOR

Journalist and historian **Ferdinand Addis** tells us why he has a sneaking sympathy for Emperor Nero and why we should not be so deferential about Rome's legacy

Your book *Rome: Eternal City* is structured as a series of vignettes. Why did you decide to write it in this way?

I think if I had tried to be comprehensive – to take in every last pope and emperor – the result might have been rather shallow. The joy of having an episodic structure was the ability to go deep, to get as close as possible to an interesting character or a pivotal moment in Rome's history, and then fill in the context from there.

Rather than writing from an impersonal, historian's perspective, I tried to adopt different vantage points within history: what was it like to live through the great fire of Rome in AD 64? What hopes and fears drove Michelangelo as he painted the Sistine Chapel? And so on.

Which stories or characters are favourites of yours?

Certainly there are characters that you warm to as a writer. I find myself strangely fond of the 'bad emperors'. Nero and Elagabalus both feature heavily in the book, and although Nero especially was capable of great cruelty, I can't help sympathising with his doomed efforts to be a musician or his very un-Roman hesitation when the moment finally came for him to fall on his sword.

I also think there's a lot to be said in favour of the noblewoman Lucrezia Borgia – a woman surviving as best she could during the late 14th and early 15th centuries, a period of chaos in Italy, while her body was being used as a pawn in a game played by kings and emperors.

Are there any trends or themes that emerge across the stories in your book?

I'm fascinated by the way we transform the raw events of the past into meaningful

historical narratives. The stories of Rome get told and retold for different purposes at different times, and I thought one of the most interesting things about covering such a broad sweep of history was seeing how each generation in Rome is shaped by the mythologised memory of earlier generations. Decimus Junius Brutus, for example, was inspired to kill Julius Caesar by the legend of an ancestor, Lucius Junius Brutus, who was supposed to have overthrown Tarquin the Proud 500 years before.

How can studying Rome's past help us understand global history?

The history of Rome – the mythic history, let's say – has always had a central place in the cultural memory of Europe and the US. Rome has been a sort of reference point by which other countries and cultures steer, like the North Star. You steer away from it or towards it, but it's always there.

How would you like this book to change readers' view of Rome and its history?

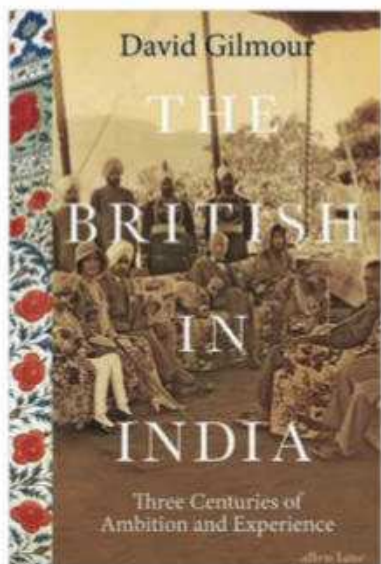
I think it's possible to be too deferential about Rome. There's an old idea, with a sometimes dark history of its own, of Rome as a model of military and cultural virtue, undone by decadence and by uncontrolled immigration of the barbarian peoples.

More common now, but still fundamentally

related, is the idea of Rome as a sort of storehouse for artistic treasures, where classical beauty survives the gaudy popery of the Catholic Church. I hope my book brings to life a Rome that is more complicated than that, more challenging. A Rome of virtue mixed with vice; of flawed, imperfect humans, trying to find meaning in a difficult world.



“Rome has been a sort of reference point, like the North Star. It's always there”

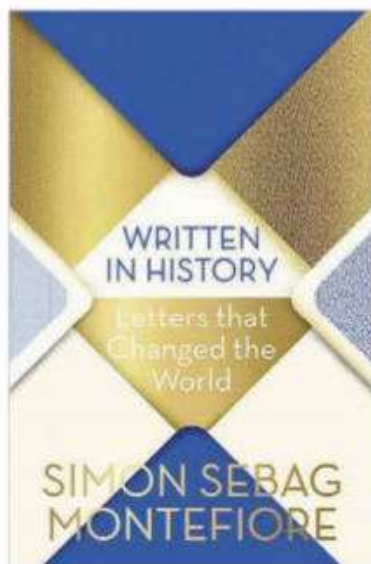


The British in India: Three Centuries of Ambition and Experience

By David Gilmour

Allen Lane, £30, hardback, 640 pages

We know much about how England shaped India, both for good – and, in many cases, bad. But how did India shape the lives of English people who moved there? Spanning from the 16th to 20th centuries, Gilmour reveals the experiences of doctors, teachers, soldiers and others, looking at how they got there, what they made of their new home, and their relationships with those around them.

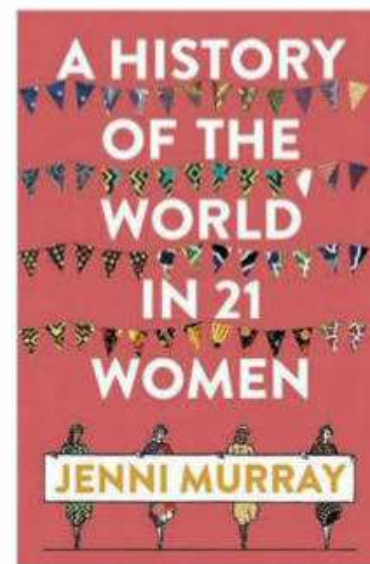


Written in History: Letters that Changed the World

By Simon Sebag Montefiore

Weidenfeld and Nicolson, £14.99, hardback, 272 pages

What sets this book apart from others about great historical correspondence is the author. The esteemed historian's selections, written in settings as far-flung as Ancient Egypt, Renaissance Italy and Stalin's Russia, go some way to illustrate how adaptable the medium of letter-writing can be, and his commentary reveals just why they are still important today.

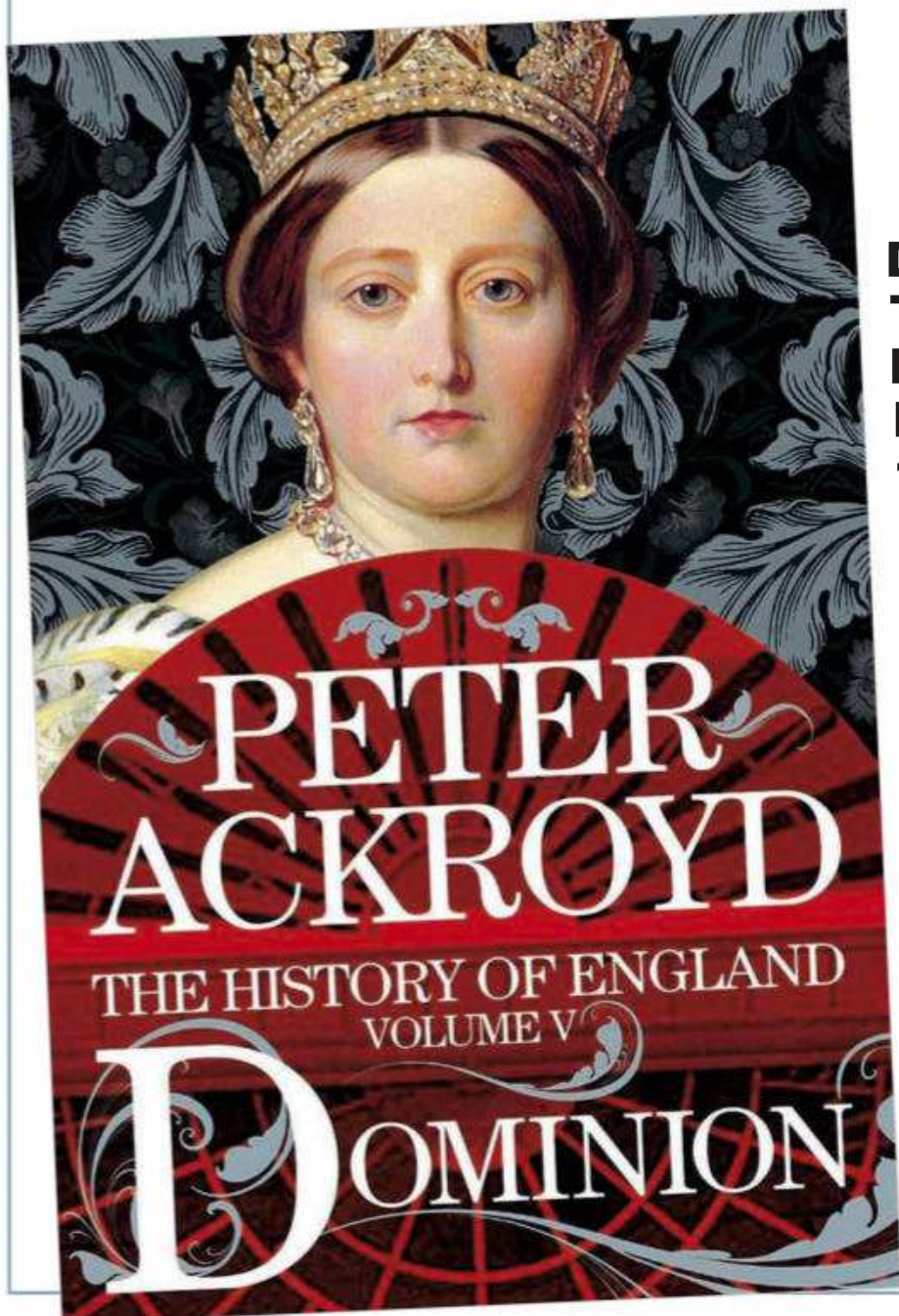


A History of the World in 21 Women

By Jenni Murray

Oneworld, £16.99, hardback, 304 pages

Following on from her 2016 book charting Britain's history through the lives of remarkable women, writer and *Woman's Hour* presenter Jenni Murray explores their counterparts on the world stage. Curating such a small collection from such a broad subject inevitably means who's here (and who's not) will cause debate. Marie Curie and Frida Kahlo are perhaps among the more expected, but there are surprising choices too.



Dominion: The History of England from the Battle of Waterloo to Victoria's Diamond Jubilee

By Peter Ackroyd

Macmillan, £25, hardback, 416 pages

This fifth instalment of Peter Ackroyd's overview of England's past chronicles most of the 19th century, starting with victory over Napoleonic France, and ending with Victoria's death at the dawn of the next. Along the way, it takes in everything from monarchy and modernisation to politics and poverty – but, above all, empire. It's a masterful assessment of a period that saw change in every area of life.

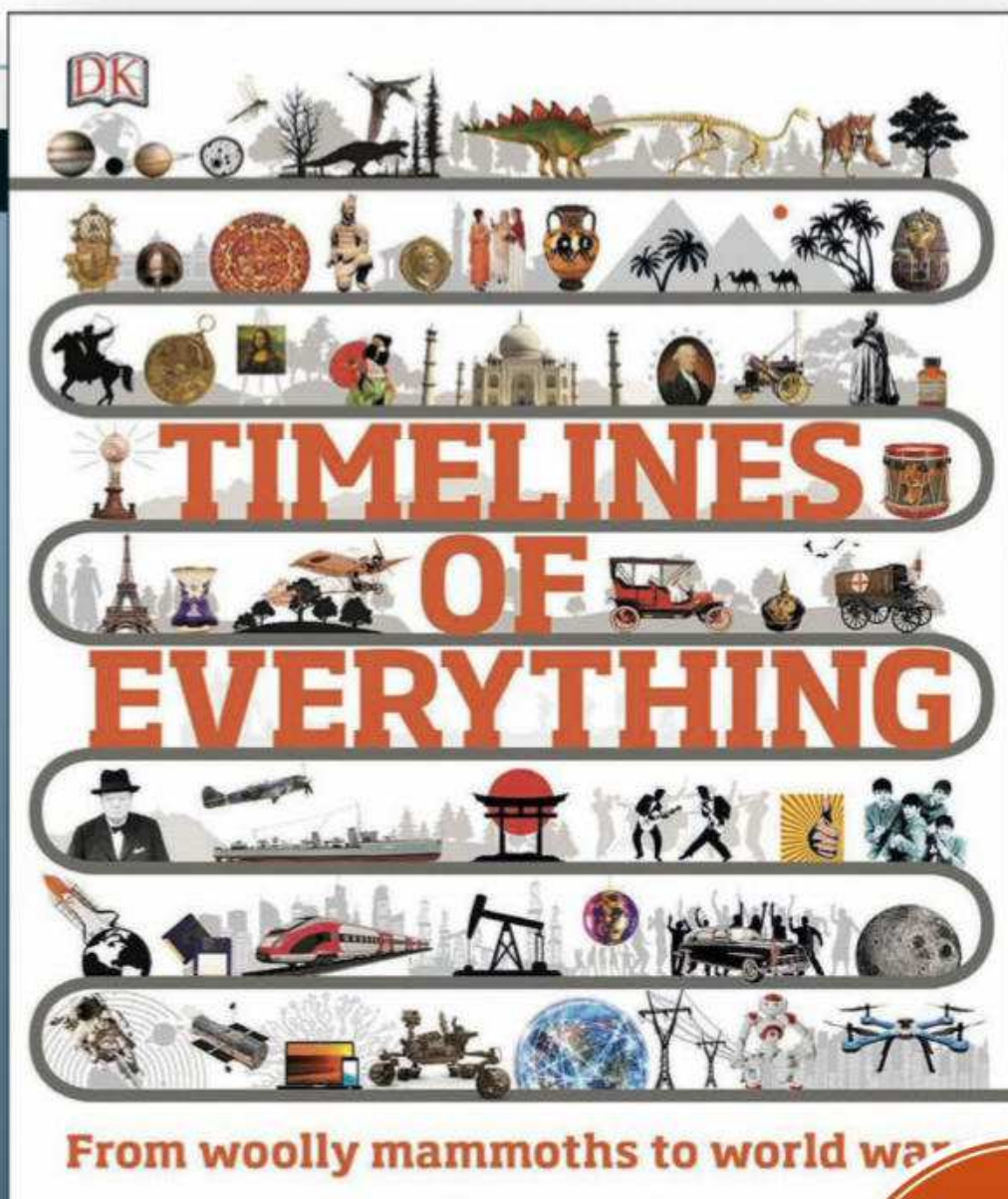


Nein! Standing up to Hitler 1935-44

By Paddy Ashdown

William Collins, £25, hardback, 512 pages

Deep within Adolf Hitler's brutal Nazi regime, forces were working to undermine his hold over the German nation. Even before World War II broke out, plotters embarked on political intrigue, missions to share secrets with the Allies, and assassination attempts in an effort to thwart his cause. This new book, from politician and historian Paddy Ashdown, offers an insightful overview of German opposition to the horrors of the period.



Timelines of Everything

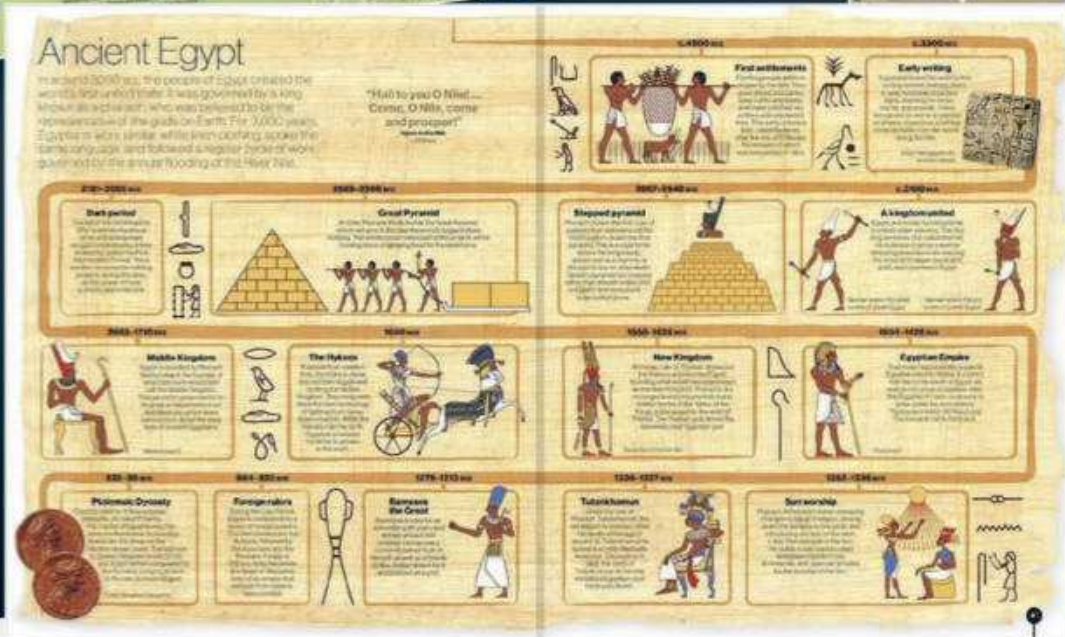
By Dorling Kindersley

Dorling Kindersley, £20, hardback, 320 pages

This might seem an overly straightforward concept: it really is 'just' a collection of timelines, exploring how historical phenomena got from A to B (chronologically speaking). But, as with many DK productions, *Timelines of Everything* succeeds due to its visual inventiveness. Pharaohs walk through the spread on Ancient Egypt, while the timeline on the history of aviation soars through a bright blue sky. Throughout, annotations and biographies mean its young readers will always have something new to discover.

“The timeline on aviation soars through a bright blue sky”

VISUAL BOOK OF THE MONTH



The 130 or so timelines offer a visual introduction to the subjects, which range from the dinosaurs to the history of cinema

POSTCARDS FROM THE PAST

Send your historical landmark pics to photos@historyrevealed.com
message us on Facebook or use **#historyrevpostcards** on Twitter and Instagram

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CARRICK-A-REDE, NORTHERN IRELAND

“ A rope bridge has connected mainland Northern Ireland with the miniature island of Carrick-a-Rede since 1755. The view from the island is beautiful: on a clear day you can see all the way to Scotland. In the past, fishermen would have gone back and forth over the bridge, carefully balancing their heavy loads of fish as they made their way across. ”

Taken by: Eloise Keightley, via email





PENSHAW MONUMENT, SUNDERLAND

“ I love photographing different parts of the world, but it's easy to overlook the beautiful places closer to home. The Earl of Durham's monument, known as the Penshaw Monument, is one such place, which I have driven past a lot but never stopped. I captured this photo on my first visit to the monument, several months ago, with the snow starting to clear and the Sun setting. I love the way it stand outs on the hillside. ”

Taken by: Tim Lodge @tim2k9



CORFE CASTLE, DORSET

“ I always find it fascinating visiting new locations and exploring what they have to offer. The mist and fog seemed to endlessly roll in over the hills, making for an iconic view of the castle. The atmospheric remains of the ruins blended perfectly into the surrounding landscape. ”

Taken by: James Wills @_jameswills_

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Send your snaps to us and we'll feature a selection every issue.
photos@historyrevealed.com

READERS' LETTERS

Get in touch – share your opinions on history and our magazine

FORGOTTEN HERO

I really enjoyed the article on 1968 by Jon Savage in the September issue. A picture was shown of the protest at the men's 200-metre medal ceremony at the Mexico City Olympic Games, in which two American athletes give a Black Power salute.

Tommie Smith and John Carlos are always mentioned when the picture is shown and we know how badly they

LETTER OF THE MONTH

black athletes to boycott the games. Whilst getting ready to make the protest, John Carlos noticed that he left his black leather gloves in the Olympic

“Despite not being officially reprimanded, Peter Norman’s career was all but over”

were treated afterwards, but the forgotten third hero in the infamous picture is the rarely mentioned Australian, Peter Norman.

Norman can be seen in the photograph wearing the same badge as Smith and Carlos, Olympic Project for Human Rights. This organisation opposed racism in sport and, at one point, called for

Village, and it was Norman who suggested they wore one glove each, reportedly telling them, “I will stand with you”, giving us the iconic image.

After returning from the Olympics, Norman was vilified in the Australian media, which called for him to be punished. Despite not being officially reprimanded, his career was all but over.



THE THIRD MAN

Like Carlos and Smith, Norman was ostracised by his native sporting community after the 1968 Olympic Games

Despite qualifying for the 1972 Munich Olympics 13 times in the 200 metres and five times in the 100 metres, he was not taken to the Games; Australia didn't even enter a runner in the 200 metres. At the Sydney Olympics in 2000, he was the only Australian track medallist not invited to take part in a lap of honour, though at those Games he was invited to be the US track and field team's guest of honour.

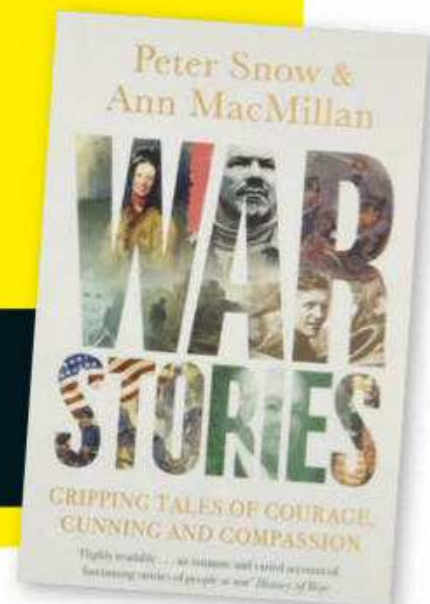
When Norman died in 2006, both Carlos and Smith were pallbearers and gave eulogies.

It wasn't until 2012 that the Australian Government issued an apology for his treatment. This summer he was given a posthumous Order of Merit by the Australian Olympic Committee.

Maybe they could be a feature in a future issue with the 50th anniversary later this year?

Stephen Baker,
via email

Stephen wins a hardback copy of War Stories: Gripping Tales of Courage, Cunning and Compassion by Peter Snow and Ann MacMillan. These stories of ordinary men and women swept up by war spans 300 years and five continents.



LIKE HIS FATHER


Tracy Borman's recent article in issue 60 (October 2018) about Edward VI was illuminating. I'd always been led to believe that he was a sickly boy who was never expected to live for long. To discover that he almost became a second version of his tyrannical father

is absolutely terrifying. The thought that the Tudors believed the age of six could be considered the mark of adulthood shows what an alien place the 16th century could be compared to modern times. Thank you *History Revealed* for always giving your readers exciting stories that challenge our perceptions of history. I love receiving my copy every month!

Charlotte O'Reilly,
via email

TYRANT TANTRUM
Edward VI is reported to have once torn a falcon apart with his hands



 **Fab article in September issue of @HistoryRevMag about Thomas More written by Dr @Joanne_Paul_ just read it in my lunch break. #Tudors #History @anfield_rose**

ALL QUIET ON THE HOME FRONT

Your July 2018 issue had a quite interesting article on castles, including an aerial photo of a Norman motte in the town of Thetford.

Thetford also has another point of distinction. Many of the outdoor scenes in *Dad's Army* were filmed there (the BBC TV series, not the 2016 film). It also has a statue of Captain Mainwaring on a park bench, and the Dad's Army Museum.

I hope to visit Britain yet again, and Thetford will certainly be on my itinerary!

John Lockwood,
Washington, DC, US

A DISASTROUS YEAR?

As usual I've thoroughly enjoyed issue 59 (September 2018). Even at my advancing age of 75, I still learn new things from reading all the articles and, not to be forgotten, doing the crossword – which usually requires a bit of research!

Regarding the article about 1968, you ask at the end about any worse years than that one. Whilst not saying it was worse overall, I remember 1956 as being quite tumultuous. There was the Suez Crisis, involving the disastrous invasion by British forces and resulting in the downfall of Prime Minister Anthony



ALL MANNER OF MAINWARINGS

Mainwaring and co were part of the Home Guard, a secondary defence force of men ineligible to join the regular army

Eden, and the Hungarian uprising which was stamped on unmercifully by the Russians.

On the lighter side, England won The Ashes, the highlight being Jim Laker's 19 wickets in the Old Trafford test. Tony Lock was the spoilsport who took the other wicket.

Barrie Vinten, Rugby

GIRL POWER

It was fantastic to read Tessa Dunlop's feature about the hidden lives of domestic servants in the 20th century and to hear directly from Edna Cripps and others about how working life didn't change for all women after war.

I would like to see more of these human stories please! This relates to a talk I attended called 'Wonder Women' at the Gloucester history festival in September. Janina Ramirez joined Fern Riddell and Naisha Hussain to discuss the women who inspired them and to share their stories, which have been until recently largely hidden from history, as women make

up half the population but less than 0.5 per cent of recorded history.

Julian of Norwich, was an anchoress who wrote *Revelations of Divine Love* c1395, which is the first book in the English language we know of written by a woman. Princess Sophia Duleep Singh was the goddaughter of Queen Victoria and a pioneering suffragette. There was a discussion about how our definition of history is changing – cultural and social history can show us women like ourselves, not just those who are in power.

Eva Rice, Somerset

 **Had mine through the post, another great read**
Alan Spindlow

 **Fitting article in @HistoryRevMag about the history of beer #backtoschool #weekend #historyteacher Czech Republic drink 143 litres per person per year!**
@MrJPTeach

ARE YOU A WINNER?

The lucky winners of the crossword from issue 58 are:
Claire Gooder, Bournemouth
Ray Damsell, Bridgend
Andrew Anderson, Bangor

Congratulations! You've each won a copy of ***The Mysteries of History*** in hardback.

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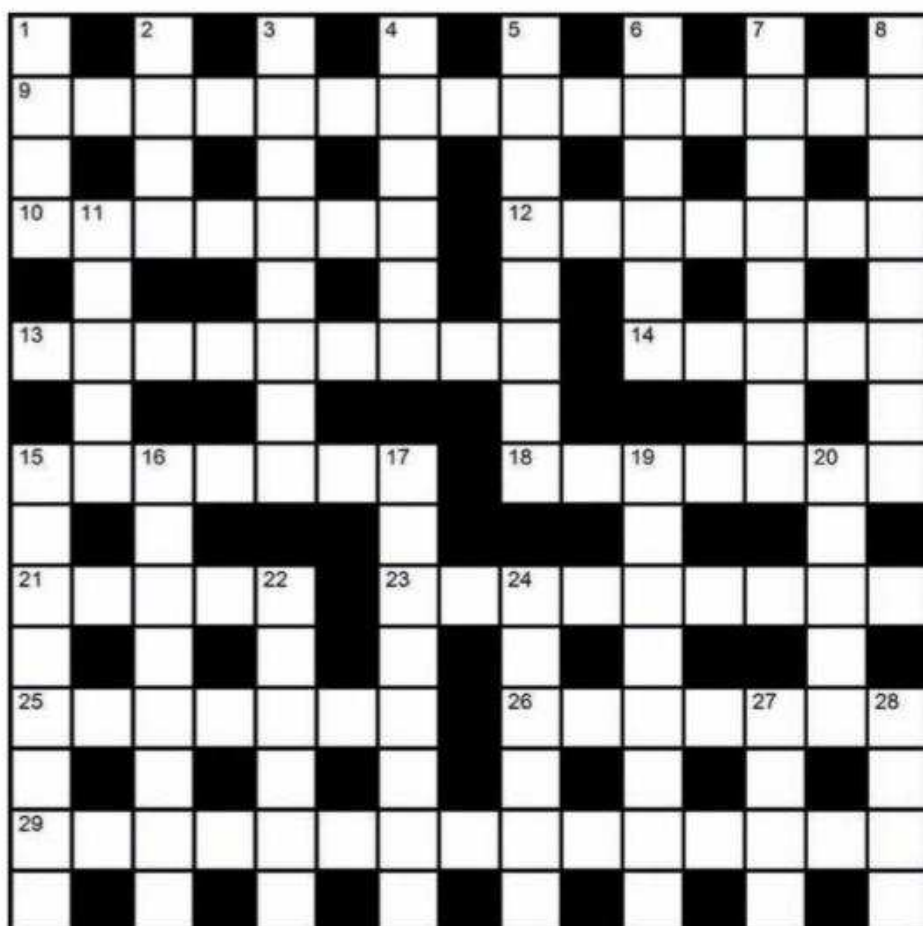
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CROSSWORD N° 61

Test your history knowledge to solve our prize puzzle – and you could win a fantastic new book

Set by Richard Smyth



ACROSS

- 9** Shakespeare tragedy, set in Ancient Rome (5,10)
10 "A ___?!" – line spoken by Lady Bracknell in *The Importance Of Being Earnest* (1895) by Oscar Wilde (7)
12 In Roman mythology, king of the gods, analogous to the Greek god Zeus (7)
13 Postal delivery company said to have been founded in 1516 by Henry VIII (5,4)
14 Legendary co-founder of the city of Rome (5)
15 Peter ___ (1079-1142), French thinker, known for his love affair with Héloïse (7)
18 Novel by Virginia Woolf, first published in 1928 (7)
21 Buenos ___, South

- American city, named capital of the Viceroyalty of the Río de la Plata in 1776 (5)
23 Dame Sybil ___ (1882-1976), English stage actress (9)
25 Margot ___ (1864-1945), Scottish-born socialite, author and wit (7)
26 Term used for the 12 tasks given to Hercules (7)
29 1859 mystery novel by Wilkie Collins (3,5,2,5)

DOWN

- 1** US state, admitted to the Union on 4 January 1896 (4)
2 Football manager Cullis, author Barstow or comedian Laurel, perhaps (4)
3 Queen of Castile from 1474 to 1504; wife of Ferdinand II (8)

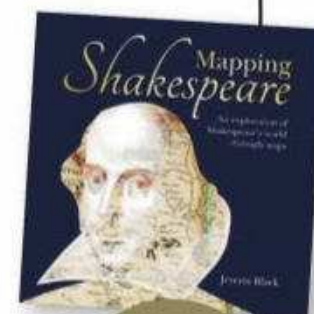
- 4** German encryption machine used during World War II (6)
5 Rafael ___ (1891-1961), dictator of the Dominican Republic for 31 years (8)
6 Specialist soldier such as Soviets Vasily Zaytsev and Roza Shanina (6)
7 The Flying ___, express London-Edinburgh train, so named in 1924 (8)
8 ___ machine, coffee device developed in Italy in the early 20th century (8)
11 Term for a nuclear fission weapon; like 'Little Boy' (1-4)
15 In Greek mythology, a fierce huntress and swift runner (8)
16 Manuel Curros ___ (1851-1908), Galician writer (8)
17 The Flying ___, legendary ghost-ship doomed to sail the seas forever (8)
19 Weapons deployed by the English at Crécy (1346) and Agincourt (1415) (8)
20 City that replaced Saint-Louis as the capital of French West Africa in 1902 (5)
22 Former name of Ho Chi Minh City (6)
24 Offshore structure such as Piper Alpha, which was destroyed by fire in 1988 (3,3)
27 Right-wing political party founded as the Anti-Federalist League by historian Alan Sked in 1991 (4)
28 City in north-east Egypt, abandoned during the Six-Day War of 1967 (4)

CHANCE TO WIN

Mapping Shakespeare

by Jeremy Black

With more than 100 maps, charts and illustrations, this beautiful book explores how England, Europe and beyond were seen and mapped in the times of Shakespeare, and how the Bard's plays were inspired by changing views of the world. Published by Conway, £25.

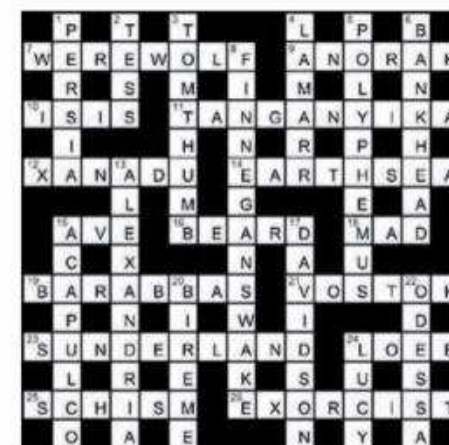


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HOW TO ENTER

Post entries to **History Revealed, November 2018 Crossword, PO Box 501, Leicester LE94 0AA** or email them to **november2018@historyrevealedcomps.co.uk** by noon on **1 December 2018**. By entering, participants agree to be bound by the terms and conditions shown in the box below. Immediate Media Co Ltd, publishers of *History Revealed*, would love to keep you informed by post or telephone of special offers and promotions from the Immediate Media Co Group. Please write 'Do Not Contact IMC' if you prefer not to receive such information by post or phone. If you would like to receive this information by email, please write your email address on the entry. You may unsubscribe from receiving these messages at any time. For more about the Immediate Privacy Policy, see the box below.

SOLUTION N° 59



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A photograph showing three astronauts inside the Apollo 8 spacecraft. They are wearing white space suits and are positioned around a large, flexible white air duct. The interior of the spacecraft is visible, showing various equipment and structural elements.

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